Retyped + in family history books

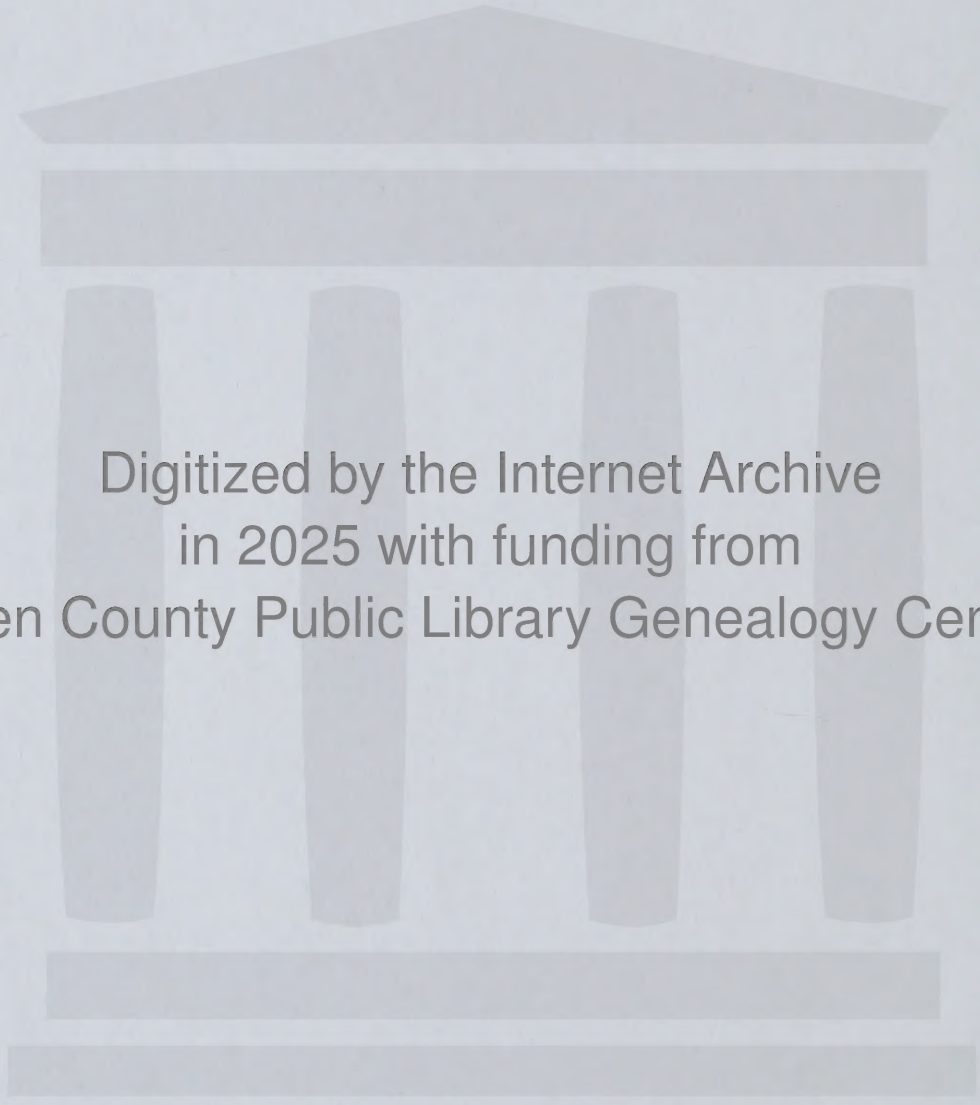
Put in computer under

Genealogy

Fitch New England

Unknown researcher

Edited + revised


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

https://archive.org/details/bettyfitch083

From HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA by Dunaway Ft. Wayne Library 974.8 D91

Boundary Dispute with Connecticut page 156

The claim of Connecticut to the northern third of Pennsylvania occasioned a serious controversy over the title to this region, and even led to petty civil wars between the rival claimants. The whole situation was complicated by the very numbers of Connecticut invaders, who not only claimed this region but were determined to maintain possession of it by force of arms. Connecticut's claim was based on the royal charter of 1662, which defined the colony's western boundary as extending to the Pacific Ocean but excepting any territory "then possessed by other Christian prince of state." New York, being thus inhabited, kept its boundary out of the dispute. West of the southeast corner of that colony, however, lay the trackless wilderness of northern Pennsylvania, and this territory Connecticut claimed by virtue of its charter. The area embraced in Penn's charter overlapped Connecticut's western claim in Pennsylvania. Hence both colonies claimed this region, and each with some show of right, but as the land was not needed at the time, the dispute over it was postponed for many years.

In 1750 an exploring party from Connecticut discovered the Wyoming Valley, which comprised much of the present county of Luzerne. The territory was thinly occupied by Indians and was many miles from any white settlement. When the fame of the beauty and fertility of the valley began to spread, Connecticut, dusting off the ancient charter, remembered that it had a claim to this region and set about to assert its rights. In the official returns regularly made to the Lords of Trade and Plantations up to this time, the Connecticut authorities had described the western boundary of the colony as terminating with the eastern limits of New York. But nowthat the Wyoming Valley was found to be so desirable, it was included within the vague boundaries laid down by the Connecticut charter.

In 1753 an association known as the Susquehanna Company was formed in Wyndham County, Connecticut, for the settlement of the Wyoming territory. Over 600 Connecticut people and 50 others from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania invested in the stock of the syndicate, though it was essentially a Connecticut enterprise. By 1755 the membership of the company had increased to about 850. This was a private undertaking in which the government of Connecticut took no part openly, though it secretly encouraged the enterprise.

The outbreak of the French and Indian War put an end for some years to any attempts at colonization in the valley. In 1762 about 200 settlers with their families migrated from Connecticut to this region. Some twenty of them were scalped by the Indians who swooped down upon them, and the remainder of the colonists returned to New England and no further attempt at settlement was made for 6 years. Meanwhile another Connecituct syndicate called the Delaware Company had secretly purchased from the Indians a large tract of land between that of the Susquehanna Company and the Delaware River.

While these matters had been maturing, the Penns were not idle, for they had no intention of allowing their province to be invaded by outsiders, in defiance of Authority and rights. They had themselves purchased this lad from the Indians several times and attached no importance to the purchase made in 1754 by the Susquehanna Company. Exerting their influence at court, they succeeded in securing in 1763 an order directing the Connecticut government to stop the Immigration of the people from that colony to the Wyoming Valley. They also made a treaty with the Indians at Fort Stanwix in 1768, whereby the sale of the Wyoming Valley to the Susquehanna Company was disavowed and the disputed land was again sold to the Penns, along with a vast stretch of territory extending to the southwestern border of the province. Although the Indian title of the Penns was now much stronger than that of the Connecticut people, this claim did not deter the New Englanders, who were determined to possess the Wyoming Valley.

Each party to thecontroversy secured from learned counsel in England an opinion favorable to its claim, but this action settled nothing. At the time that Penn's charter had been granted, the patent had been issued with the consent of the King, the Lord Commissioners of Trade, and the responsible officers of the government, to all of whom it was known that the Connecticut charter of 1662 gave that colony indefinite western limits. The officials had never questioned the right of the King to grant to William Penn the land called for in this charter, nor had Connecticut at the time interposed any objection to this grant. Now, after 70 years had elapsed, Conn. insisted upon taking a somersault over southern New York and northern New Jersey and landing well into Pennsylvania, but the Privy Council declined to substantiate the claim. Nevertheless, here in an isolated spot far from its own domain this colony attempted to exercise its jurisdiction, and by persistence forced upon Pennsylvania great inconvenience, strife, and even Civil war, only to find in the end that it had obtained nothing for its pains. Connecticut's acquisitiveness exceeded its judgment, and it appears that neither in law nor in common sense did the colony hade a right to pursue this shadowy claim to such extremes.

The Susquehanna Company proceeded to survey five townships, each five miles square, to be assigned in each case to forty settlers who would migrate to the Wyoming Valley and attempt to hold the land against any Pennsylvanians who might seek to dislodge them. The first forty of these settlers arrived in the valley in Feb. 1769 and, having built a blockhouse called Forty Fort, occupied their township. They were followed by additional settlers from Connecticut who occupied the four remaining townships under similar conditions. The Penns, however, anticipating such a movement, had forestalled the newcomers by leasing some land in the heart of the valley to a group of Pennsylvanians who, it was understood, were to defend it against all intruders. Hence the Connecticut invaders found Pennsylvanians already on the ground and determined to hold their own against all newcomers.

This situation led to the so-called Pennamite, or Yankee-Pennamite, Wars, which began in 1769 and ended in 1775 without settleing anything in regard to the main issue involved. The dispute was really one Between Connecticut and the Penns, and neither the assembly nor the people of Pennsylvania were particularly concerned with it for some years. The Connecticut government remained in the background at first and fostered the fiction that the enterprise was merely the affair of the Susquehanna Company, a private undertaking in which the colony had no part, although it later erected the valley into a Connecticut county. Thegovernments of Pennsylvania and Connecticut at no time declared war on each other. Had the Pennsylvanians actively entered the conflict, that colony would have made short work of the Connecticut settlers, but the forces engaged to uphold the interest of the Penns were raised through the efforts of the proprietaries themselves, without the aid of the assembly.

The leader of the Pennsylvania settlers in the Wyoming Valley during the First Pennamite War, which began in 1769 and ended in 1771, was Captain Amos Ogden, with whom was associated Sheriff John Jennings, of Northampton County, within whose jurisdiction the Wyoming Valley lay. The few Pennsylvanians who settled in the disputed area were soon outnumbered by the rapidly increasing Connecticut intruders. The war consisted of a series of attempts of the Connecticut people to establish themselves in the valley and of the efforrs of the Pennsylcania claimants to dislodge them; and advantage shifted first to one side and then to the other. Although expelled from the valley five times by Captain Ogden, the New Englanders as often returned in increasing numbers and upon the conclusion of the First Pennamite War in 1771, remained in possession of the soil. In the course of the war the miniature forts erected by Captain Ogden in behalf of the Pennsylvanians and by Colonel Zebulon Butler and Captain John Durkee for the invaders changed hands with the varying fortunes of the war. The forces raised by the private efforts of the Penns were outnumbered by those from Connecticut and were unable to hold their ground against the intruders.

For the ensuing four years the Penns made no further attempt to retake their property. Then they protested to Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut, aginast the proceedings in the Wyoming Valley, he replied that his government had not taken any part in the war, which was merely a private affair of the Susquehanna Company. This position was hardly sincere inasmuch as it was well known that many Connecticut officials were stockholders in the Susquehanna Company and were doing their utmost to push its fortunes. Their attitude rather appears to have been a shrewd device to evade responsibility and to let matters take their course. Since the people of Pennsylvania showed little interest in a land squabble in a remote section of the colony and the Penns were unable to raise from their private means a force sufficient to drive out the Yankees, the latter remained in possession. Hence, all that the Connecticut government had to do was to stay in the background and let matters drift, and this action it was shrewd enough to follow.

After the Penns had failed to hold the valley by force of arms, the Connecticut settlers flocked thither in considerable numbers. A census taken in 1774 gave their number as 1,922, and they continued to come. The Connecticut government now threw off its disguise and took formal possession of the territory by making it a New England town under the name of Westmoreland and attaching it to Litchfield County, Conn. As such the settlement proceeded to organize a regular township government and to sent two representatives to the Connecticut legislature. This isolated colony led a life of its own, drawing its inspiration from Puritan New England and possessing no sympathy for the life and institutions of Pennsylvania.

By 1776 the settlers had increased to about 2,600 who in their expansive zeal overflowed the township limits and established a settlement at Nuncy. This was the occasion leading to the Second Pennamite War, which began in 1775. Meanwhile the Penns sought to meet the situation by dividing the valley into the two manors, STOke and Sunbury, and by selling land to Pennsylvanians in this region. During the controversies which followed, these settlers were known as the Pennslyvania claimants. In 1772 the Penns erected Northumberland County and included the Wyoming Valley within its limits. In 1775 a new attempt was made to dislodge the New Englanders. An expedition, under the command of Colonel William Plunkett, attacked and destroyed the settlement at Numcy in Sept. 1775. This initial victory aroused such enthusiasm in theprovince that Col. Plunkett soon found his force augmented to the number of 700 men, and he now advanced confidently against the settlement of Wyoming. In the battle which followed, however, he was defeated by the Connecticut people under the command of Colonel Zebulon Butle r, and retired to //Sunbury. Thus ended the fighting between the rival claimants on the battlefield, and thereafter the contest was fought out in the courts. In the three years of peace that followed Plunkett's attack the New Englanders prospered in the valley and increased in number to about 5000.

Since the Revolution had now begun, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution calling upon both parties to cease from further hostilities and to concentrate their energies upon fighting the common enemy. When the Revolution ended, Pennsylvania appealed to Congress to establish a court to settle the boundary dispute with Connecticut. Accordingly, seven commissioners were appointed for this purpose in August 1782 and five of them organized a court of commissioners at Trenton, New Jersey, in November of that year. After hearing the evidence and argument in a trial lasting 41 days, the court rendered an unanimous decision on December 30, 1782, in favor of Pennsylvania, a judgment acquiesced in by Connecticut and since known as the Trenton Decree.

Although the Trenton Decree brought to a close a long controversy between Pennsylvania and Connecticut over the boundary, it did not settle the question of the property rights of the Conneciticut people who held lands in the Wyoming Valley under Connecticut title. The matter was further complicated by the fact that some of this same land was held by Pennsylvania claimants under Pennsylvania title. The outcome of the situation was a period of strife and bloodshed which has been called the Third Pennamite War. In an endeavor to straighten out matters, the Pennsylvania legislature passed the Confirming Act of 1787, which established the Connecticut settlers in the possession of their lands, but this measure was declared unconstitutional. Three acts were passed, in 1799, 1802, and 1807, before this vexed question was finally disposed of. The outcome of the whole matter gave the Connecticut settlers titles for the lands which they occupied, while the Pennsylvania claimants were paid in money for their claims. In 1786 the Pennsylvania legislature erected Luzerne County, which comprised within its limits practically all the lands occupied by Connecticut settlers in the "yoming Valley. The most significant result of the whol controversy was the introducion into Pennsylvania of a large number of New Englanders who settled on both sides of the Susquehanna from Wilkes-Barre to the New York line.

(My personal comments: This history of Pennsylvania was clearly written by a Pennsylvanian as he has a definite leaning toward the Penn's and away from the Connecticut claimants. B. Fitch)

In 1754, the Susquehanna Company was formed with nearly seven hundred members, of whom six hundred and thirty-eight were of Connecticut. Their agents made a treaty with the Five Nations, July 11, 1754, by which they secured for 2,000 pounds a tract of land, beginning at the forty-first degree of latitude, the southern boundary of Connecticut; thence running north, following the line of the Susquehanna to the present northern boundary of Pennsylvania; thence one hundred and twenty miles west; thence south to the forty-first degree, and back to the point of beginning. The General Assembly of Connecticut acquiesced, provided that the king approved. Pennsylvania objected, but the company sent out surveyors and plotted the tract. Settlement began on the Delaware River in 1757, and in the Susquehanna purchase in 1762. There were conflicts between the settlers and the Pennsylvania men; the number of Conn. men increased to some 3,000. The Connecticut Assembly passed a resolution in 1771, maintaining the claim of its colony to its charter limits west of the Delaware. In 1774, it raised the Susquehanna district into a town, under the name of Westmoreland, making it a part of Litchfield County, and its deputies took their places in the Connecticut legislature. In 1776, Westmoreland was made a distinct county. Connecticut laws and taxes were enforced regularly; Connecticut courts alone were in session there; the levies from the district formed the twenty-fourth Connecticut regiment in theContinental armies. In July, 1778, after the Continental Congress had refused to allow the men from Westmoreland in the army to return home, a band of tories and Indians under John Butler and Joseph Brandt, fell upon the defenseless settlement. The old men and boys mustered, and fought until half their number was cut down. The women and children were spared for the greater horrors of the overland retreat to Connecticut, and the new county disappeared. Detached parties returning from time to time, gathered slight crops, under danger form the Indians, but Westmoreland Co. was no more. When the articles of confederation went ~~in~~ into force, a court was appointed to settle the Susquehanna or Wyoming dispute. Connecticut asked for time to get papers from England, but was overruled by Congress, which ordered the court to meet at Trenton. The unanimous decision was that Wyoming belonged to Penn. The Wyoming settlers had a hard time for years, being deserted by their own state, and left to the mercy of rival claimants. The old Susquehanna Company reorganized in 1785-86, but there were dissensions between the first settlers and the newcomers, and in 1799, Pennsylvania passed an act to allow actual settlers to retain their lands, thus there came to be a large infusion of Connecticut blood in Pennsylvania. Had it not been for the Revolution, Connecticut might have retained the Wyoming country; as it was, the dreams of Westmoreland faded, and the state is restricted to the present territory.

Paragraphs form HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA BY Dunaway

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY IN THE REVOLUTION

Among the meritorious officers from this section were: Generals John Armstrong, William Irvine, James Potter, Philip Benner, Ephraim Blaine, and James Ewing: and Colonels Thomas Hartley, James Chambers, Henry Antes, Samuel J. Atlee, and Zebulon Butler. Two of the most reknown ed soldiers of the border were Capt. Hawkins Boone and Capt. Sam Brady, whose deeds of daring were a terror to their foes and still remain a cherished tradition of the valley.

Throughout the Susquehanna Valley there were about forty forts which had been erected to protect the exposed frontier settlements against mauauding bands of savages. Many of these had been built at the time of the French and Indian War, but others were added during the Revolution. Between the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna were some fifteen forts, most of which date from this period. Many heroic deeds were performed in defending these frontier strongholds, and much historic lor gathers round them.

The inhabitants of the upper reaches of the Susquehanna River, along both the West and the North Branch, suffered more from the horrors of Indian war-fare than did those of any other section of the country. That portion of the West Branch Valley adjacent to the present city of Williamsport was the scene of a cruel massacre by invading savages on June 10, 1778. Having captured all the forts in that region, the Indians devastated the whole countryside with merciless barbarity. Fort Numcy and Freeland's Fort, with all the intervening territory, were hastily abandoned by the surviving inhabitants, whose panic-striken flight is known in history as the "Big Runaway." In response to the entreaties of the people, Congress dispatched Col. Thomas Hartley to the relief of the distressed settlers, most of whom returned to their homes when comparative security was restored.

More terrible still was the fate of the settlement on the North Branch of the Susquehanna, which constituted the picturesque and historic Wyoming Valley above and below Wilkes-Barre and which had been settled by immigrants from Connecticut. Upon the outbreak of the Revolution the inhabitants of this valley rallied with great unanimity to the cause of freedom and raised two companies, which joined the Continental Army at Boston in the summer of 1776. These troops, known as the Independent Companies of Westmoreland, although raised to defend the exposed frontier of Wyoming, had in the dire need of the national emergency joined Washington. Hence the Wyoming settlement, deprived of practically all its able-bodied men of military age, was left defenseless. Taking advantage of this situation, the British organized a force of about 1,200 men, composed mostly of Tories and Indians from New York, and invaded the valley.

To meet this danger, the settlers hastily gathered a force -- "chiefly the undisciplined, the youthful and the aged," numbering about 300 men and led by Colonel Zebulon Butler and Colonel Nathan Dennison -- and marched boldly out to meet the enemy on July 3, 1778. Overwhelmed by the superior strength of their foes, they suffered a crushing defeat, which was followed by a devastating massacre. With horrible thoroughness, the Indians went through the valley burning every house and scalping every survivor who had not fled after the battle. The prisoners were tortured and killed, and the settlement was practically annihilated.

There is nothing in the annals of Indian warfare more terrible than the Wyoming Massacre. It aroused the indignation of the whole country and of Europe, weakened the Tory party in Englamd, and gained sympathy for America. Provoked by this outrage, Washington and Congress were determined to revenge it by dealing a heavy blow against the Six Nations and their Tory allies who had perpetrated it. General Sullivan who was selected for this task, assembled an army at Wyoming in the summer of 1779, and, marching up the Susquehanna into the enemy's country, defeated them decisively at the Battle of Newtown. Following up his victory, he laid waste the territory of the Six Nations, burning forty of their villages and destroying forever their efficiency as a fighting force. The settlers returned gradually to their homes and, when peace was restored, developed a progressive community.

A fairly complete set of farming implements in those early days consisted of plows, harrows, carts, scythes, shovels, hoes, spades, axes, sickles, rakes, pitchforks, mattocks, and wheelbarrows. Plows were cumbersome affairs with wooden mold-boards, the cutting edge of which was gaced with a share of plain strip of metal. Though a few iron-toothed harrows were imported from Europe, wooden-toothed harrows were in mofre general use. Late in the colonial era a few cultivators, or horse hoes, were introduced, but they were by no means common. Rollers made of logs cut from large trees were generally used to crush clods and to compact the soil. The agricultural revolution had not yet set in, and there was none of the improved farm machinery with which present-day farming is familiar. Little improvement in either tools or methods was effected during the colonial era, though toward its close the cradle began to replace the sickle as a means of cutting grain.

Two methosd of clearing the land were employed by the colonists. One consisted in cutting a ring out of the bark in the lower part of the tree and thus causing the tree to die, and then cultivating the land without cutting the trees . The other method, which was better though more laborious, was to cut away the underbrush and burn it and then to cut down the trees, leaving only the stumps, before cultivating the soil. The Germans ordinarily used the latter method and the Scotch-Irish the former, though neigher method was employed exclusively by any racial group. Both systems were used in the same localities, and sometimes in the same tracts.

Free schools of the Wyoming Valley.

Different from either the church school or the neighborhood school was the type of elementary education introduced by the Connecticut settlers in the Wyoming Valley toward the close of the colonial era. Here the customs of New England prevailed, and the schools established in this region were patterned after those in Connecticut and anticipated in design and management the free schools of a later day. The principle upon which free schools were based provided that the general education of all classes should be in schools supported by taxation and subject to local management and responsibility. This system originated in 1773 when the several townships in the Wyoming Valley held town meetings at which they voted to tax themselves to provide common school education. The inhabitants of the districts elected three of their number to act as a school committee, whose function was to hire teachers to exercise general supervision over the schools. The system thus inaugurated was that of an isolated group, however, and was apart from the general life of the province.

From HISTORY OF PENnsyLVANIA by Dunaway

From THE PENNSYLVANIA STORY by Fortenbaugh and Tarman Ft. Wayne Library 974.8 F77

Connecticut's Claims Result in Yankee-Pennamite Wars

The third boundary dispute to be discussed was that with Connecticut. This was more than a dispute over the location of a dividing line; it was about the ownership of the northern third of the present area of Pennsylvania. Like the other disputes, this one arose from conflicting charter grants. In 1662 Connecticut received a sea-to-sea grant from Charles II, between limits defined on the eastern coast. Nineteen years later the same king gave William Penn a charter containing a grant which clearly included some of the area shortly before given to Connecticut. Connecticut's sea-to-sea claim did not appear to be a very strong one, for lands later granted in New York and New Jersey cut through the sea-to-sea claims of Connecticut.

Now, the special right which the English king had in granting land was exactly the opposite of a private person's right. If an individual sells a plot of land to Mr. A and then sells the same plot again to Mr. B, Mr. A's claim to the land is the legal one. However, if King Charles II granted land to Connecticut and then later granted the same to Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania's was the legal one.

Charles II constantly used this kingly right; in fact, he abused it. Someone has said that in so far as selling the same piece of land twice to different persons is concerned, Charles II was no better than an Indian.

In spite of the original Connecticut claim based on the charter of 1662, the people of Connecticut had for years forgotten all about this western claim. Finally in 1750, an exploring party happened to come into a beautiful, fertile, valley on the upper north branch of the Susquehanna River. Soon the fame of the valley spread, and for a few years parties of Connecticut perople visited it in the summer season. Yet they made no attempt to settle there.

But in 1753 the Susquehanna Company was formed with about 650 members. One of the first things this company did was to send a group to meet a great council of the Iroquois at Albany, and purchase a large tract of land in the vicinity of the Wyoming Valley.

The purchase was made in 1754. No settlement was made under it until 1762 when about 200 farmers with their families entered the valley. The Indians in the locality were hostile but allowed this company to sow and reap their first crop. Then they suddenly fell upon the settlers, massacred some and drove the others away. For six years following this attack no settlement was attempted, and the valley was deserted. Even the Indians, fearing the revenge of the settlers had fled.

Wishing to profit by its investment, the Susquehanna Company in 1768 marked out five townships and sent forty settlers to develop one of these townships, Kingston. These men arrived in February 1769, having been given land and 200 pounds in Connecticut money with which to purchase tools, weapons and other necessities. They were given these things on thecondition that they would stay in the valley and defend it against the claims of the Penns. The first work of this company was the building of a fort which was named "Forty Fort" Their leader was Colonel Zebulon Butler.

The forty settlers were soon followed by others who quickly occupied the remaining four townships. However, they were not here without the knowledge of the Pennsylvania government. The Penns leased 100 acres of the valley for seven years to Charles Stuart, Amos Ogden and John Jennings on condition that they should establish an Indian trading house and defend it against all intruders.

By September 1769 Ogden had collected 200 men who marched into the valley to drive out the Connecticut Yankees. Their four-pound cannon proved too powerful a weapon for the Connecticut settlers, and all but seventeen were forced to leave the valley. After the greater number had gone, the followers of Ogden destroyed the property and drove off the cattle which had been left behind. The seventeen, finally being starved out, were forced to leave. But the Connecticut men would not quit and came back to be expelled again and again, five times in all. In 1771 they came back in such increasednumbers that they held possession of the soil. The first Yankee-Pennamite War was over.

This conflict was not between the provinces of Pennsyvlania and Connecticut. It was between the Penns, as private owners of the land, and the Susquehanna Company, although the province of Conn. did create the five townships. If the province of Pennsylvania had been directly concerned, short work would have been made of the invaders.

During the four years which followed immediately after the end of the first war, the Penns made no effort to retake their property, and the Connecticut people settled in large numbers. In 1774 there were 1,922 residents in the valey. And still they came. Connecticut then took formal possession, made the area a New England town, Westmoreland, included it in a Connecticut county, and gave it the right to send two representatives to the Conn. legislature. In the meantime, the Penns had begun to sell land in the region, and in 1772 created the county of Northumberland which included the Wyoming Valley.

These actions brought on the second Yankee-Pennamite War. Colonel William Plunkett led an expedition of Pennsylvanians to attack and destroy Muncy in Sept. 1775. With 700 men Plunkett then moved his force against Wyoming, meeting defeat at the hands of the Conn. force under Colonel Butler. For some years these warlike actions were discontinued, and the matter was later settled in the courts. In the three years of peace and quiet which followed, the New Englanders prospered and their numbers increased to 5,000.

Items to type up:

Sarah lost her patchwork quilt to the Indians who saw it on her bed and wanted it.

Kell lineage:

George Kell

Jacob Kell 1818-1904 — Catherine 1824-1852 — Catherine M 1829-1912

Frederick Jacob Kell 1872-1952 — Bessie Fitch 1875-1942

(Jake) Frederick Jacob Kell 1904- — Elsie Adair 1903-19

(Fred) Jacob Frederick Kell 1935- — Eula May Freeman 1931-

Catherine M 1829-1912 was very Dutch.
She wanted and got the very best of everything.
from household furnishings to horses. They had pure breds

George's wife was from Ohio.
George had George, Sol, daughter who married a Hatch,
2 boys who died, Gertrude or was it George I
had George II who had the rest as his family?
Also an Ann who married a Wymer? 1904?

The Kells were from France. Al Sace Lorraine?
It is also said that the DeLongs were from Alsace Lorraine

Bessie (daughter of Mathias), being the oldest granddaughter was a favorite of Grandma Sarah. She would often stay with Sarah. When Bessie would take Carolyn & Elizabeth to see her they would sit on 2 little red chairs that Sarah had hanging on the wall. Sarah had a mind of her own. Once the daughters had re-arranged things and

put those red chairs somewhere else. As soon as Sarah found them they went back up on the wall. The girls would often re-arrange drawers etc but as soon as they were gone Sarah would put them back where they were.

JACOB? Mathias? Had a big Bible

If I understood right, Carolyn's grandfather, was a great fellow. He had his big Bible that he read every day.

As Sarah Elizabeth got older, the family had a hard time getting her to stop milking the cow. One of the things she did was put a light in the window at bedtime so Harvey (in the house down the hill) could see it and know she was O.K.

Mathias had a stroke. He had written a daily diary (every day of his life) and no one knows where it is. Some other person (outside the family) asked to borrow it once and they don't think it was ever returned. What a pity! Carolyn said he read his Bible daily. He was a "big bear" of a man and loved his grand children. He would put out both arms and the kids would hang from them and he would swing around.

Desire to borrow Babylon family in WA state. Have tried to get them (account but no response from John, the only one living.

Aunt Beatrice (Mathias + Frances youngest daughter) loved to sing. She taught Carolyn. Carolyn's mother, Bessie, would sing hymns in the kitchen. Carolyn still remembers the words to the hymns she learned by hearing her mother sing.

Carolyn was not welcome at Grandma Kelli's house. Was made to sit on the steps and told not to touch the flowers or the dog!

Think Grandpa Jacob fell in the barn and hit his head and eventually died of that skull fracture. Sometimes Carolyn was tied to a tree to keep her from getting in to trouble. Grandpa would say "Untie that girl." Her parents were pushed to teach her nothing but work. When Carolyn was 12, Bessie had a hernia and Carolyn had to do everything. She said she canned and canned and at fair time wanted to take some to the fair but they wouldn't let her. It was naughty of her to even laugh. Grandma would pinch in her cheeks if she even laughed.

Carolyn was allowed no friends but in high school she chose for her best friends some Jewish girls and the only black girl in the school. She was from the farm (Carolyn was) so she was scum too. One of these Jewish girls was a Rothberg whose family owned a furniture store. So one day she went to Rosa's home and her mother was so over joyed that she would be a friend to Rosa she threw her arms around her and gave her a big hug. She was so grateful. Carolyn kept this a secret from her family. The black girl was adopted by the sheriff (sp). But she died young. Carolyn said racism was very prevelant among the family. Probably among most living in those days. She said she hated it and learned early to appreciate all races and colors.

She said Belle Hollopeter Fitch had a cousin who had money, a beautiful home, wintered in the South but was a terrible racist.

Jake Kell has a lot of his grandfather Mathias in him. Live and let live. And an easy acceptance of things that befall him.

Carolyn said her Grandma Kell was also cruel to Bessie.

Baby daughter, Elizabeth DeBolt, was never disciplined.

Once a bull got Jake down and was hurting him badly and he was saved when _____ Elsie (?) came after the bull with a pitchfork. She was a power house of a woman.

Carolyn said her father never said "thank you" or ever held her on his lap that she can remember. But when she started working he took her first 3 paychecks so she moved out.

Her father in his older years was kept by both Jake and Carolyn. I would say they would get their reward later. Certainly not in this life.

Mathias had begged Bessie not to marry Frederick but to no avail. Gladys was also in love with him. She would have been able maybe to put him in his place but Bessie was compliant to him. We thought

when he married Bessie he would get money but did not. Only some implements and animals. He wanted to be a millionaire. Once he was known to say when Bessie was sick, that he would never be a millionaire with a sick wife!

He would not neighbor with anyone. Thought he was better than they were. Actually he probably was programmed for this in his own childhood. Jacob had 3 wives and lost 2 – one with typhoid and I think the other was an accident. When Frederick was born his mother was 44 and his father 60 years old and they spoiled him rotten.

Frederick was kicked out of school because of his bad behavior and they had him tutored at home. He had knocked the teeth out of Sol Kelli's daughter and would fight with the boys.

Bessie was really mistreated by her husband and mother-in-law. Had little happiness as she was kept from her own family, the Fitch's, most of the time. I have recorded elsewhere how her husband cheated her and the kids out of her inheritance by letting it go for non-payment of taxes. Hate to think what his reward must be for guess he never repented and wanted nothing to do with God.

From a HISTORY OF CONNECTICUT by Clark Ft. Wayne Library 974.6 c54

Norwalk was settled in 1649, and incorporated in 1651.

Preparations for the settlement of Norwich began in Saybrook as early as 1654, under the leadership of the famous and martial Capt. John Mason, with whom were associated 34 others. Mason had been the friend and adviser of the wily Uncas for twenty-four years, and having visited him frequently, was thoroughly acquainted with the country, and it was doubtless by Mason's influence that Uncas and his two sons appeared at Saybrook in June, 1659, and signed a deed of conveyance, which gave the company of 35 proprietors a title to a tract of land of nine square miles at Mohican. There was another reason, for in 1645, Uncas was closely besieged by the Narragansetts, and Capt. Mason, who was in command at teh Saybrook fort, sent a boat-load of beef, corn, and peas by night, under the command of Thomas Leffingwell, and Uncas never for the favor. Seventy pounds was the price for the land, and since Connecticut had bought it before and paid for it, the English were more than fair with the Indians. Mason was then commissioned by the legislature to buy the rest of the Mohican country, which he did, and adeed of cession was signed in August, 1659, and in the following November, a few settlers made their way to the new town and spent the winter there. The Mohicans assisted them in carrying their goods, and soon the town was laid out. The earliest act recorded on the town book was on December 11, 1660, andthe name Norwich was given to the place about 1662. The settlers were the church of Rev. James Fitch of Saybrook, and the minister was a leading spirit in the enterprise. There was much trouble and litigation in later years between the settlers and the Indians over the title to the lands, since it was claimed that Uncas had made over the title to the lands to Mason to secure them to his tribe, of which Mason was the guardian. One Phase of this was the act of Mason in 1671, in making over to the tribe a tract of more than 4,000 acres, usually called the sequestered lands. But disputes continued for 70 years over the lands occupied by settlers in Colchester, Windham, Mansfield, Hebron, and some other towns, and it was not until 1743, that the case was settled by a decision to refer the matter to the king in council. The final decision was given in 1767, and it was against the Mohicans, who soon faded away. The same year of the settlement of Norwich, 1660, Suffield was settled, the land having been bought of two sachems for $100.

In 1675, Joshua, son of Uncas, the Mohican sachem, gave by will to Capt. Mason and 15 others the tract containing Windham, Mansfield, and Canterbury, and in May, 1686, the main streets of Windham were laid out.

Wars with the Indians --

The formidable Pequots, left to battle alone, spared no pains to provoke resentment. Early in October, they attacked 5 haymakers from the Saybrook garrison; seized a man named Butterfield and tortured him to eeath, and a few days after they took two men from a boat, onethey killed, the other, Josephy Tilly, was tortured to death by cutting off hands and feet. The Saybrook fort was in a state of siege all winter; outhouses and haystacks burned; cattle killed or wounded. In March, Gardener, the commander, went out with ten men to work on the land; they were waylaid, three slain, the rest escaped to the fort which was at once surrounded by a great number of Pequots, who challenged the English to come out and fight; mocking the groans and prayers of tortured men; boasting that they could kill the English " all one flies" until grape-shop drove them away. Not long after this, three men sailing down the river were overpowered, one man was killed and he fell overboard; the others were cut in two lengthwise and humg up on the river bank. In April, Indians went as far as Wethersfield and waylaid some farmers while going to their fields, killed two men, a woman and child; they carried away two girls, killed twenty cows, and destroyed much other property.

(The story is continued, to be copied at a later date if needed -- Pages 39 to 45)

Uncas, lived only two or three years to enjoy hisone-sided arrangement, dying in 1682 or 1683. His son Owenico was in a still more pitiful state at the end. In 1680, he made over all the lands his father had given him on the Quinnebaug to James, Fitch, his loving friend, as he called him, giving as a reason for the deed the fact that some of the English extorted land from him by importunities, and others by inducing him to sign papers while he was under the influence of strong liquors. James Fitch was the son of the Norwich minister, but unlike his father was grasping and eager for land. (James Fitch married Elizabeth Mason, daughter of Major John Mason) One night Owenico became very drunk, fell out of his canoe, and would have drowned had it not been for two settlers, to one of whom he gave 100 acres of land. This princely Owenico, the brave warrior in early manhood, became a vagabond in his old age.

Rev. Abraham Pierson of Branford learned the Indian language and preached to the Indians, Fitch and Narber did likewise.

It is not strange that men who were addicted to war, revenge, and laziness should have found little in the Bible to please them. The friendly and patient Rev. James Fitch of Norwich did everything in his power to Christianize the Mohicans, preaching to them in 1671, and later, but he was forced to admit that "Uncas and Owenico at first carried it teachably and tractably, till they discerned that practical religion would throw down their heathenish idols, and the tyrannical authority of the sachems; then they went away and threw off their people, some by flatteries, some by threats".

Page 96 -

In 1680, Captain Fitch of Norwich was granted two hundred acres on condition that he build a saw mill in a certain place.

Page 142 -

We have noticed that at first the support of ministers was by voluntary contributions, a method which worked well, while devotion to religion flamed. It was the custom, for example, in Norwich for the people to carry their proportion of wheat, rye, peas, and Indian corn on or before March 20, but it became necessary even in Norwich, trained as it was by the reverend James Fitch, to appoint collectors, which was done in 1686, and monthly contributions were sometimes taken to make up deficiencies. We have spoken of the code of 1650, as requiring all persons to bear their share, and soon it was the custom to lay a tax of from one penny to threepence in the pound "for the encouragement of the ministry," but, in 1677 the matter was transferred to the town, and made a part of the town finances, and at that time a regular salary was proposed. There was a custom which tended toward the permanence of the pastorate, and that was the habit of laying a special tax when a minister was installed over a church; a sum equal to the salary of two years was paid him "for settlement", as it was called, and with the amount he ~~brought~~ bought land, built a house and barn, and thus made a home, which he was supposed to occupy until death. It was expensive to settle a minister, and there was more than one reason why churches were reluctant to change. The permanence of the pastorate, together with the fact that the minister was usually the best educated man in the community, tended to give him a prominent place in the life of a town.

Page 199 - The Pennsylvania story

The expansion of the colony westward was encourage by the fact that the charter bounds extended to the Pacific Ocean. When the Plymouth council gave up its charter in 1635, it notified the king that the grant was "through all the mainland, from sea to sea, being near about 3,000 miles in length." The geographers in England knew also that the Connecticut grant was 3000 miles long, though no one dreamed then of pressing the claim beyond the Missinpi River to lands owned by the Spanish, but Connecticut did think that she owned the northern two-fifths of Pennsylvania. Soon after the charter was granted, Charles gave his brother James the Dutch colony of New Netherland, thus interfering with the continuity of Connecticut. In 1681, Charles gave William Penn a grant of Pennsylvania, which took from the Connecticut strip the northern coal, iron, and oil fields. In 1753, a movement was made to colonize the Wyoming Country as the Pennsylvania section was called: it started in Windham Co.

Page 229 - Yale

James JR?

The annual appropriation was continued for 50 years. The first private donor, other than the organizers, was James Fitch of Norwich, who gave 637 acres of land in Killingley, and glass and nails enough for a college hall.

page 247 -

From this state have gone three presidents of Williams College - Ebenezer Fitch, from 1793, when the college was chartered - Fitch was born in Norwich, and was president 15 years.

Page 279 - The Revolution

When the news of the proposed stamp Act arrived in 1763, the General Assembly appointed, in a secret and careful manner, three of its ablest disputants to argue in its favor, and three equally able to argue against it, that it might hold well-balanced convictions. One of the earliest resolves of the session was the appointment of a strong committee to assist Governor Fitch to set in order the objections to the Act. Jared Ingersoll, one of this committee, was commissioned to confer with Richard Jackson, agent of the colony in England, on the subject; it is reported that George Grenville praised the tone in which the Connecticut "Reasons" were written and admitted that the arguments were the best that he had seen, though fallacious. The measure passed the House of Commons, March 22, 1765, and soon afterwards Gov. Fitch called his council together to take an oath to cause "All and every one of the clauses (of the Act) to be punctually and bona fide observed," according to the requirements of the Stamp Act. There was a heated debate, and when the time-limit for the oath came, and it was proposed to administer it, Jonathan Trumbull, Eliphalet Dyer, Hezekiah Huntington, Elisha Sheldon, Matthew Griswold, Shubal Conant, and Jabez Huntington indignantly withdrew , refusing to witness a ceremony, which, as Dyer insisted, was "contrary to the oath the governor and council had before taken to maintain the rights and liberties of the people." The political future of Gov. Fitch was sealed, and after three years of Gov. William Pitkin, Jonathan Trumbull, the famous War Governor held office until 1784. The temper of Governor Trumbell is seen in the following sentences from a braodside he issued as the mouthpiece of the Assembly, june 18, 1776, to be published in the churches, appealing to the "virtue and public spirit of the good people of the colony": Affairs are hastening fast to a crisis, and the approaching campaign will be all in all probability determine forever the fate of America. Be exhorted to rise therefore to superior exertions on this great occasion; and let all that are able and necessary shew themselves ready in behalf of their injured and oppressed country, and come forth to help of the Lord against the mighty, and convince the unrelenting tyrant of Great Britain that they are resolved to be FREE"

Page 291 -

The invasions of Tryon, whose fleet had lingered threateningly along the coast, brought much suffering to Connecticut in 1779. On July 3, as the people of New Haven were preparing to celebrate the Declaration of Independence, the town was thrown into alarm by the news that Tryon's fleet of 48 sail had dropped anchor at West Haven, and 3,000 men were on the march for the city. They advanced in two detachments, one marching from West Haven, and other capturing a small fort at Black Rock, then meeting the first contingent on the common at one o'clock. The town was plundered until the next morning, the acts of cruelty and destruction of property are described in the traditions. On July 8, Tryon destroyed Fairfield, also Green's Farms. Norwalk was the next to go up in flames; and at the next landing, so many resolute men met him that he retired. His loss of three hundred men in the plundering expeditions was a severe punishment and the injury inflicted on Connecticut was less.

Page 293 - Loyalists

We find a place in this chapter to speak of the Loyalists or Tories, (Grumbletonians) as they were sometimes called in those strenuous times. It is not strange there should have been conservative men, who naturally shrank from the confusion and threatening anarchy attending the insurgents in the experiement of self-government, and laid excessive stress upon the fact that America belonged to England. It would perhaps be too strong a statement to say with the bitter critic, Samuel Peters, that the "multitude considered the General Assembly to be equal to the British Parliament." but the experience of nearly a century and a half of self-covernment as an independent republic had fostered a condition, which President Dwight in his TRAVELS describes thus. "In no state of the world was an individual of more importance as a man than in Connecticut. Such a degree of freedom was never before united with such a degree of stability." In the upheaval which tried men's souls to the utmost, it would be remarkable if good judgment and self-control should prevail in every case, for the 72 townships were little republics with 3000 town officails, who had taken oath to do their duty conformably with the constitution and laws. A sharp watch was kept over every one; as early as 1702, an act was passed which oredred town clerks to keep a list of all the freemen in the town, at every meeting to call the roll, and absentees were to pay a fine of two shillings. In this situation and with such training, it is not strange that in moments of excitement some people went to extremes, as in Windham, when two men, known as Peter's Spies, who had been arrested for carrying treacherous correspondence, were forced to run the gauntlet between two rows of women and children armed with switches and broom-sticks. In Simsbury, a Tory was shot for being beyond his premises after being warned, and in Hartford another was shot after a similar warning. It is not known what proportion of the people in the colonies were Tories: John Adams put theproportion at about One-third , and another estimate is that of the 25,000 males between 16 and 50 in Connecticut in 1774, about 2,000 were in the class of Loyalists. Connecticut had a larger share than the other New England

colonies, and they were mostly in Fairfield County. Considering that the twenty Episcopal ministers in the colony received an annual stipend from the English Missionary Society, it is not strange that some of them should have thought that the policy of the colonies was unwise to their churches. Some of them called it an unnatural rebellion, and when the patriotic spirit ran high in 1774, the Sons of Liberty organized, Tories were treated as social outlaws, and some towns passed resolutions of grief and detestation. It soon appeared that more radical measures must be taken, and in all parts of the state committees of inspection were appointed, consisting of from 15 to 30 men in each town - vigilance committees, to search into the actions and disposition of every one in the community. On finding a Loyalist they forbade him to leave his farm, and published in one or more of the four newspapers of the colony his name on the first page under the heading : PERSONS HELD UP TO VIEW AS ENEMIES OF THEIR COUNTRY."

In 1775. Congress advised the arrest of every one who might endanger the safety of the colony, or the liberty of America. Washington felt strongly on the subject, and said to Gov. Trumbull, "Seize the Tories that are active; they are preying on the vitals of the country, and will do all the mischief in their power." In December, 1775, the General Assembly passed an act which ordered that all who actively aided the enemy with supplies or information should forfeit their estate and be imprisoned for a term, not to exceed three years; that those who defamed Congress or the Assembly should be disfranchised, keep no arms, and if thought wise, be imprisoned or fined; and that those reported "inimical" were to be disarmed.

Early in 1776, Congressurged the "most speedy and effectual measures to frustrate the mischievous machinations, and restrain the wicked practices of these men," and the governor and council took action accordingly; a few months after the Declaration of Independence, the General Assembly ordered that any Loyalist who should aid the enemy should be sentenced to death for treason, and that any one who should have knowledge of such action and should conceal the fact, should be fined, and imprisoned not more than three years. Informers multiplied, especially in the shore-towns, and the Assembly ordered that ~~one~~ no one leave the state in a boat without a written permit signed by some authority of town or army. At the same session, an act passed the Assembly enjoining an "Oath of Fidelity," and whoever neglected to take this oath could not hold any office or transfer real estate. Tory prisoners were in nearly every jail, and at Newgate prison, among thirty or forty Loyalist prisoners there were Gov. Franklin of New Jersey, Mayor Matthews of New York and Dr. Benjamin Church of Watertown, Mass., for the story of Connecticut vigilance went abroad. In the summer of 1777, Tories began to repent in large numbers, as a result of an act of the Assemby, proclaiming pardon to all who were convinced of their error and were ready to return to duty, and before the close of the war hundreds took the freeman's oath, and received their estates back again. In 1779 the Assembly passed another liberal act, inviting "absconding Tories to return". The action of Connecticut, while firm and positive toward men who were not in sympathy with the insurgents, was not

revengeful, and both Assembly and towns were ready to pardon the penitent. The part taken by the state from the wise, prompt, and large-minded governor to the private in the ranks and the faithful women on the farms was patriotic and effective.

Item of particular interest in search of identity of John Fitch.

FITCH

WANTED:

Parentage of Nathaniel Fitch, born Feb. 12, 1781, said to have been the son of John Fitch. Nathaniel Fitch died Sept. 14, 1839, in Falls Twonship, Luzerne (now Wyoming) County, Pa.; married Aug. 29, 1801, Sarah Keeler, born June 26, 1786, in Ridgefield, Conn., daughter of Paul and Sarah (Cornwall) Keeler. She died Feb. 8, 1856 in Falls Township.

Further search has been made in census records, the original records of Luzerne, Wyoming and Northumberland Cos., Pa., the land records in the Land Office, Department of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg, Pa., and the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Since the Fitch family lived in that part of Pennsylvania which was included in the Pennsylvania-Connecticut controversy as to the ownership of the lands and they were confiscated by Pennsylvania, it complicates the solution of the problem.

Much has been published regarding this controversy and the "Dictionary of American History", edited by James Truslow Adams, vol, 5, pp. 497, 498, gives a brief account as follows:

"Settlement of the Wyoming Valley was the cause of many conflicts, involving the governments of Pa. and Conn., the British government, the Continental Caongrss, the Yankees from Connecticut, the Pennamites of Pennsylvania, and the Idians. According to Connecticut's Charter of 1662, her territory reached straight across the continent in a narrow strip from Narragansett Bay to the 'South Sea'. But Charles II granted part of the same area to his brother, the Duke of York, in 1664, and still another part to William Pennin 1781. However in the early 1750's the Connecticut General Assembly received several petitions from persons who wished to purchase from the Indians and settle on the reputedly better lands to the West, within Connecticut's charter limits. In 1753 the Susquehanna Company was formed, at Windham, Conn., to buy land, colonize, and evangelize the natives. The section chosen, called Wyoming Valley, is located within the present commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it is about 21 miles long and 3 or 4 miles wide, with the Susquehanna River running through the middle. In 1754, the Company purchased a large tract from the Six Nations, and in the same year the General Assembly gave approval to the plan for settlement, because it saw the possibility of preventing French encroachments, increasing Indian trade, and befriending the Indians.

The French and Indian War together with the Intervention of Pennsylvania and Sir William Johnson, interferred with settlement until 1762, when the first white settlers were sent out by the Susquehanna Company to build and plant. They returned to

Connecticut for the winter, but went back to the Valley the next spring and built more houses near the site of the present Wilkes-Barre. The Indians drove them out in October, 1763, and no further attempt at settlement was made till 1769, when forty picked men arrived to settle and defend the land. There followed many years of strife called the "Pennamites War" with the Yankees and the Pennamites alternately in control, but the population continued to grow, nevertheless.

"Public opinion, in general, seems to have been behind the Connecticut settlers. Even many Pennsylvanians sided with and aided the Yankees, because they appreciated the great advantages of some of their practical ideas, for example: The allodial land system (whereby land was actually owned by the settlers, free from rent or services, as opposed to the Pennsylvania system of absentee ownership by proprietors, of manors, guitrents, etc.); also, the co-operative town organization, imported intact from New England, with free public schools, churches and town officers elected by and from the share*holder settlers.

"The whole collection of settlements (with a population of 1922) was officially set up as the town of Westmoreland in Litchfield Co., in 1774, and two years later, declared to be a separate county of Connecticut, with its own county court, which of course conflicted with the Pennsylvania jurisdiction. One of the last acts of the Pennsylvania Proprietary government, aided by the British ministry and Philadelphia Tories, was the unseccessful invasion of the Valley of 700 militia in December 1775.

"The Wyoming settlers supplied many men for the Connecticut Line in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. This so depleted the number of able-bodied men at Wyoming that there was very little protection against Indians and Tories. The Wyoming Massacre, July, 1778, virtually put an end to Connecticut's power in Pennsylvanis.

In December, 1782, five impartial commissioners appointed by Congress to settle the land title controversery by arbitration, decided in favor of Pennsylvania. The 5000 and 6000 settlers who held land through the Susquehanna Company were loath to be dispossessed, and more fighting ensued. Finally, the Pennsylvania legislature passed the Compromise Act of 1799, by which Pennsylvania claimants in the Wyoming Valley were paid off, and titles in the seventeen Connecticut townships before 1782 were confirmed to the Connecticut settlers on payment to Pennsylvania of a certain sum per acre. The Wyoming people became valuable citizens of Pennsylvania and contributed to her development in many ways."

Bibliography to the above article: The Susquehanna Papers, 1750-1772, edited by J. B. Boyd; Public Records of the Colony (and the State) of Connecticut; Pennsylvania Archives, 2d Series, Vol. XVIII and History of Wyoming by Charles Miner.

While the Pennsylvania-Connecticut Boundary Dispute was pursuing its official and legal course - - - - in 1784 the second so-called Pennamite-Yankee War broke out when local authorities of Pennsylvania, acting in close co-operation with Pennsylvania claimants, dispossessed those holding Connecticut titles. These 'wars' were conducted by disciplined companies acting under military leaders, forts were built and besieged, articles of capitulation were drawn up and signed, and in general the formal rules of 18th century warfare were observed. Some blood-shed, some misery and a great deal of lasting bitterness resulted. But in general the 'wars' were carried on by private persons unsupported by governmental authority "(Ibid vol. 5, p. 502).

An address delivered before the Trenton Historical Society, Nov. 18, 1920, by Frederick W. Gnitchtel and the "The Trenton Decree of 1782" reads in part: "Accompanying the Trenton Decree there was a letter from the commissioners as individual citizens to the Governor and the Executive Council of Pennsylvania in which they expressed their views as to the title of the settlers. For some unexplained reason this paper remained in the office of the Sevretary of State, in Harrisburg, unnoticed and unknown to the public. The letter was written, Dec. 31, 1782, and evinced a deep sense of justice and humanity, and a thorough understanding of the settlers' claim to the soil. This letter was brought to light in the trial of the case of VanHorn v. Dorrance 2 Dallas 304 in the U.S. Court 1795. This was an ejectment suit brought against Dorrance, who held under a Connecticut title. The Court charged against the defendant, and held that theConnecticut title had no validity; the defendant claimed under some act of Pennsylvania, which sought to confirm their titles, but this act was held to be unconstitutional".

Wyoming Co., Pa. was a part of Luzerne Co. until April 4, 1842, when it was set off from that county, and Luzerne Co. was a part of Northumberland Co. until September 25, 1786. The "Seventeen Townships" were the purchase of the Susquehanna Company and were so designated in the ancient Pennsylvania proceedings being the townships acquired by the Connecticut claimants before the Trenton Decree of Dec. 30, 1782. This list as given in the Susquehanna Papers, vol. 1, p. XV, footnote gives "Northumberland" as one of the townships, but I have been unable to find that name in any of the records. A map in the land office, Department of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg, Pa., made by Thomas Sambourn, the surveyor of the resurveys, very plainly reads"Northmoreland". Census records of Luzerne Co., Pa. do not give the name of Northmoreland until 1820, but the records prove there was a township of that name before 1820.

The Susquehanna Papers give Fitch Names of Jabez, Sr. and Jr., Eleazer, William, Capt. John, John Jr., as subscribers of the Susquehanna Company in vol. 1, p. 32. Most of these Fitch men were residents of Windham, Canterbury and Norwich, Conn., but the records in Luzerne Co., Pa. do not show that they lived there.

These are the ~~sons~~ of Rev James Fitch
grandsons & gr. grandsons

Northumberland was the Penn. name

JONATHAN FITCH

he earliest Fitch noted in Luzerne Co., Pa. is Jonathan Fitch who was in Westmoreland as early as Aug. 8, 1775. At a meeting of the Proprietors and Settlers on that day a committee was chosen of inspection for "ye town of Westmoreland" and he was voted a member of that committee. (Proceedings of the Wyoming and Geological Society vol. 4, p. 106).

The List of Taxables for the Wilkes-Barre District of Westmoreland, August 1776, gives Jonathan Fitch (Ibid vol. 5, p. 209) and the list of "up the river" for the same year gives Lemuel Fitch. The only record found later of Lemuel Fitch is administration of his estate. Hallet Gallup, administrator, bond of 500L, dated August 21, 1794, with Nathaniel Landon as surety, and account Feb. 20, 1800. No record of an inventory or account was found in the probate files in the Register of Wills. Jonathan Fitch is also listed in 1778 in the Wilkes-Barry District (Ibid vol. 5, p. 232) and again in a "True List of the Polls and Estates of the Town of Westmoreland" of August 20, 1780 (Ibid vol.5, p. 241).

The Westmoreland Litchfield Co., Conn. Probate Records, Liber A. Jan. 6, 1777 to June 16, 1783, are in possession of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and the name of Jonathan Fitch appears therein as appraiser of estates and surety of administrators' bonds. (Ibid vol. 18, pp. 142, 171, 186, 199, 201, 203, 205, and 207). He was for five years High Sheriff of Westmoreland (History of Wyoming by C. Miner, published 1845, appendix p. 50) and a Representative to the Connecticut Assembly from the town of Westmoreland in 1780 and 1781 (public Records of the State of Connecticut, 1780-1781, vol. 3, pp.3 and 370). The land records of Luzerne County show that the married --- Sill. "Pioneer and Patrict Families of Bradford Co., Pa., 1800-1825," by C.F. Heverly, published 1915, vol.2, p. 213, state she was Esther Sill, daughter of Jabez and Elizabeth (Noyes) Sill who moved to the Wyoming Valley from Lyme, Conn., being one of the five families who settled at Wilkes-Barre in 1772.

The records of Luzerne County do not reveal from whence Jonathan Fitch came, but the following land records are noted in his name in Luzerne co:

Dec. 15, 1779. Thomas Porter of Woodbury, Litchfield Co., Conn., for 400L quits to Jonathan Fitch of the town of Westmoreland, county of Westmoreland in the said state, all interest in a tract of land lying in said Westmoreland beginning at a walnut staddle at the northeast corner of said lot bounding the highway running through the town plat of Wilkesbury District in said town of Westmoreland thence extending southerly with the line of said highway to a stake standing at a corner of William Judd's land thence extending with the line of said Judd's land Westerly to the highway that runs through between the first and second division of meadow lots so called thence extending northerly with the line ofssaid road to the corner of Jabez Sill's land thence easterly to the aforementioned bounds being the one and one-half meadow lot of the whole.

signed - Thomas Porter

Rev. James' dau grandson, Lemuel born 1705

Up State from Norfolk

Witnesses: John Smith and Abigail Hubbard. Acknowledged in Litchfield Co., Conn. before Daniel Everitt, J.P. Recorded Feb. 19, 1789. (Luzerne Co., Pa. Deeds, Book 1, p. 127).

April 1, 1783. Jonathan Fitch of the town and county of Westmoreland deeds for 150L the above-mentioned lot to Thomas Porter of said town and county aforesaid.

signed -- Johnathan Fitch

Witnesses: Jacob Sills, Jr. and Moses Sill. Their acknowledgement states that Jonathan Fitch is their brother-in-law. This acknowledgement was dated Dec. 1, 1788 in Luzerne County before Timothy Pickering, Esq. Received to be recorded Dec. 1, 1788. (Ibid Book 1, p. 98).

Sept. 12, 1783. Jonathan Fitch of Wyoming, Northumberland Co., Pa., quits all my right in a dwelling house in which I now live together with 1-3/4 acres of land thereto belonging with the well and all other privileges thereon belonging ~~unten~~- unto John Ryon of said Wyoming for 40 Spanish milled dollars.

signed -- Jonathan Fitch

Witnesses: Abner Kelly and Henry Harding. Received for record Dec. 31, 1788. (Ibid Book 1, p. 114). This deed was made when Luzerne County was a part of Northumberland, but not recorded until after Luzerne was erected. The land records in the Recorder's Office at Sunbury, the county seat of Northumberland County, do not give any early records in the Fitch name.

May 28, 1788. Jonathan Fitch of the town and county of Montgomery, New York, quits to Moses Sill for 45L all his title in a tract of land lying in Wyoming in the District of Wilkesberry, Pa., containing about 1-3/4 acres with a dwelling house thereon it being part of a house lot fronting southerly on the highway running from the Suszuehanna river easterly thence that was called the meeting house Greene and easterly on lands belonging to Mr. Benjamin Bailey and being part of the lot the said Bailey now lives on and northerly on lands belonging to one Allen and westerly on lands belonging to the heirs of Asa Stephens and one Garnsey, deceased.

signed -- Jonathan Fitch

Witnesses: Obadiah Gore, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Avery Gore. Recorded June 2, 1788. (Ibid Book 1, p. 49.)

Further search was made in the published material on Tioga and Broome Cos., N.Y. as Binghamton where Jonathan Fitch resided after removing from Luzerne Co. was a part of Tioga Co. until March 28, 1806 when Broome Co. was erected. Tioga Co., N.Y. was erected, Feb. 16, 1791, from Montgomery Co I made this search endeavoring to learn from whence Jonathan Fitch came to the Wyoming Valley and if he bore relationship to the Fitch family whose ancestry we are seeking.

Jonathan Fitch was Supervisor of Owego, Tioga Co., N.Y. for the year 1793 (A Memorial History of Tioga Co., N.Y. edited by L. W. Kingman, p. 262); also, Treasurer of Tioga Co. for the same year (Historical Gazeteer of Tioga Co., N.Y., 1785-1788, by W. B. Gay, no date, p. 55; Memorial History of Tioga Co., p. 63); a Member of the New York Assembly for the year 1782 (History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler Cos., N.Y. published 1879, p. 88). He was a merchant from Wyoming and appointed a Judge (Annals of Binghamton, N.Y. by J.R. Wilkinson, published 1872, p.52); Fitch's Creek received its name from him and he built the first grist mill in 1790 at or near the mouth of the creek. (History of Broome Co., N.Y. by H.P. Smith, published 1885, part 2. p. 485).

None of the land records in Luzerne Co., Pa. give the signature of the wife of Jonathan Fitch and neither are signatures of the wives found in many other early deeds of that county. Since these families were from Connecticut where the wife did not sign during the life of her husband, probably that accounts for the omission of the wife's name in many of the records.

JOHN FITCH

The land records of Luzerne Co, Pa. show that John Fitch was the father of Gideon and Nathaniel Fitch.

August 29, 1803. John Fitch of Northmoreland Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., conveys to William Keeler of the same place for $35 a piece of land in said township lying on the north side of the Susquehanna River being part of my river lot running as follows: beginning at a black walnut tree standing in the highway and running south to a small butterwood bush standing in said lot thence the same course to said river bank thence down said river to a small chestnut bush thence across said Lot to a small chestnut by the highway across said highway to the top of the hill thence westward opposite said walnut thence down said hill to said black walnut the place of beginning bounded as follows south by said river east by Gideon Osterhout, Jr., north and west by my own lands to the place of beginning.

signed John His mark Fitch
Mary Her mark Fitch

Witnesses: Joseph Daley and Urania Keeler. Recorded Jan. 26, 1805. Luzerne Co., Pa., Deeds Book 9, p. 196).

The above-mentioned deed is the only one in the name of John Fitch in the land records of Luzerne County and neither his name is found in Northumberland County. Other land records in Luzerne County mention his name as follows:

Nov. 25, 1799. Zuriel Sherwood of Northmoreland Twp., Luzerne Col, Pa., farmer, and wife Lucy, deed to Samuel Hedley pf Exeter Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., for $500 land in said Northmoreland Twp. being part of a tract of land mentioned in Certificate No. 7 lying in said Northmoreland Twp. and being one of the seventeen townships in Luzerne Co. as by certificate granted to John Fitch by order of the commissioners appointed in a commission to put in force the act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania on 4 April 1799 and the supplements thereunto belonging or annexed. Beginning at a black walnut tree on thebank of the river thence north by land of John Fitch to thetop of the hill thence east to land of said Samuel Hedley thence south by land of said Samuel Hedley to the bank of the river thence up the river to the place of beginning containing six acres. Both sign.

Witnesses: Thomas Atkinson and Benjamin Luce. Recorded April 30, 1813. (Ibid Book 14, 295).

April 11, 1806. Nathaniel and Gideon Fitch of the Town of Northmoreland, Luzerne Col, Pa., yeomen, for $23 convey to William Keeler (place of residence not stated) a tract of land in said Northmoreland Twp. being a part of Lot No. 37 single tier and lying before said Keeler's door and a part of the River lot our father John Fitch lately owned as will appear by Certificate beginning at a south corner of said Keeler's land and running west about twelve rods to a Black Walnut Tree standing in said Lot and on the River bank then square across said lot and to the top of the hill to a Pile of Stones then east to said Keeler's bounds then down said hill to the place of beginning containing about one and one-half acres be the same fore or less situate and being bounded as follows westerly and northwardly by lands of Gideon and Nathaniel Fitch southerly by the river eastwardly by lands of William Keeler.

Signed ---- Nathanial Fitch
Gideon Fitch

Witnesses: William Haight and Asa Keeler. Recorded July 9, 1806. (Ibid Book 10, p.6).

Dec. 6, 1807. William Keeler of Northmoreland Twp., Luzerne Col, Pa., Yeoman, deeds to Zuriel Sherwood of county and state aforesaid for $300 all that land in Northmoreland Twp. on the north side of the river being part of lot No. ___ bounded beginning at a black walnut tree standing on the river bank a bound between Nathaniel and Gideon Fitch and William Keeler and running north by northwest across the lot and to the top of the hill and then east by northeast on said hill to a corner of stones then down said hill and across said lot to the River bank then up said river to theplace of beginning containing about five acres be the same more or less Bounded easterly by Samuel Hedley northwardly and westwardly by lands of Nathaniel and Gideon Fitch and southwardly by the Susquehanna River being lands lately owned by John Fitch as by certificate will appear duly assigned to the said Nathaniel and Gideon Fitch.

signed --- William Keeler

Eleanor (X) Keeler
Her Mark

Witnesses: Jacob Jones and Harrington (X) His Mark Northrup. Recorded Nov. 8, 1813. (Ibid Book 14, p. 498).

December 1, 1808. Zuriel Sherwood of Northmoreland Twpl, Luzerne Co., Pa., farmer, deeds to Harrington Northrup of the same place, farmer, for $200 all that land in the township aforesaid and now in possession of said Herrington Northrup beginning at a stake on the River thence by land of Matthew Sherwood ~~and~~ the elder north ~~on the River thence by land of Matthew~~ ;4 degrees west 320 rods to two stakes thence by land of Thadeus Taylor north 76 degrees east 76 rods to a Yellow Pine thence by land of John Fitch south 14 degrees 320 rods to a black oak on the River thence by said river to the place of beginning containing 50 acres it being part of 150 acres mentioned in Certificate 34 and lying in one of the seventeen townships as by certificate granted to Matthew Sherwood will appear under the Commissioners appointed in a Commission to put in force the Act of the 4th day of April 1799 and the supplement thereunto annexed which said 50 acres hereby conveyed was by Deed conveyed by the said Matthew Sherwood to the said Zuriel Sherwood for condiseration therein mentioned.

signed --- Zuriel Sherwood
No signature of a wife.

Witnesses: Thomas Atkinson and Abbey Keeler. Recorded Jan. 21, 1809. (Ibid Book 11, p. 111).

There is filed in the Land Office, Department of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg, Pa., a map of Northmoreland Township, one of the seventeen townships, which was made when the re-surveys were made for the Connecticut claimants. After the Trenton Decree of Dec. 30, 1782 the lands of the Connecticut owners were confisicated. Mr. Daniel, in charge of the Land Office, told me that the lands granted after the act of 1799 may not have been the lands formerly owned. I found no records of those lands. The cost of a photostat copy of the map of Northmoreland Township was prohibitive so the next best thing was to make a tracing which is hereto attached which shows thelocation of the lands of John Fitch, Matthew Sherwood, Paul Keeler whose daughter married Nathaniel Fitch, a son of John Fitch, and Thaddeus Taylor. See later in this report about the Taylor family.

Records of the surveys and certificates of the seventeen certified townships and the patents are recorded in the Land Office, Department of Internal Affairs, as above mentioned. The records in the name of John Fitch are as follows:

Record of the survey: "Draught of a Tract of Land situated in Northmoreland one of the 17 townships in Luzerne Co. being 37 in the single Tier of that township and containing 241 acres 40 perches with the usual allowance of 6% for roads, resurveyed the 8th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and two for John Fitch by order of the commissioners appointed to put in execution an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, entitled 'An act for offering Compensation Claimants of certain land within the seventeen townships in the County of Luzerne and for other purposes therein mentioned.

signed ---- Thos Sambourn
Surveyor to the said Comrs.
2d January 1804.

To Samuel Cochran, Esq.
Surveyor General.
(Records of Certified Townships, Luzerne Co., Pa., Book 12, p. 57).

The certificate reads: "NORTHMORELAND. We the undersigned commissioners, duly appointed for putting in execution an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania entitled 'An Act for offering compensation to the Pennsylvania Claimants for certain lands within the 17 townships of the County of Luzerne, and for other purposes therein mentioned' passed the 4th day of April 1799, and the other supplements thereto passed the 15th day of March 1800 and the further supplement thereto passed the 6th of April 1802 Do Certify, that John Fitch is the Owner as a Connecticut Claimant of 241 acres and 40 perches of Land in the Township of Northmoreland one of the before mentioned 17 townships, Being number 37 in the single Tier of that Township which Lot was severally occupied by a Connecticut Claimant an actual settler there before the time of the Decree of Trenton and was particularly assigned to such actual settler prior to the said decree agreeable to the regulations then in force among such settlers. The said land is draught of Survey whereof is hereunto annexed) is included in the application of John Fitch under the provisions of the acts aforesaid; of which application an officail transcript had been submitted to us from the Land Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania No. 624. Of the said tract 15 acres thereof part thereof, are of the 2nd Class; 75 acres part thereof are of the 3rd Class; and the residue thereof is of the 4th Class.

signed --- Thomas Cooper
J. M. Taylor

anuary 21st, 1804.
(Ibid Book 12, p. 79)

The patent to the above-mentioned tract of Land is recorded in Patent Book P-60, p. 176, and filed in the Land Office, Department of Internal Affairs, and reads:

"The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting: Know Ye, that in consideration of the sum of eighty-six dollars and 15 cents now paid by Gideon Fitch and Nathaniel Fitch into the Receiver-General's office of this Commonwealth, there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto the said Gideon Fitch and Nathaniel Fitch a certain tract of Land, called Union situated in Northmoreland Township, Luzerne County (Being lot No. 37) in the single Tier Beginning at a chestnut on the Susquehanna thence up the same South 60 degrees 30 minutes West 13 perches to a corner South 42 degrees West 165 perches to a corner by lot No. 36 North 13 degrees 334 perches to a corner thence by lot No. 39 North 75 degrees East 138 perches and five tenths to a corner and then by the Town line South 15 degrees East 242 perches to the beginning containing 241 acres 40 perches and allowance to which said tract was surveyed to John Fitch who by deed dated the 18th day of February 1806 conveyed the same to the said Gideon Fitch and Nathaniel Fitch to whom a warrant of Acceptance issued the 20th Instant (Being the same tract of land that was surveyed in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly, ntitled 'An Act for offering compensation ~~the~~ to the Pennsylvania aimants fo certain lands within the seventeen townships in the County of Luzerne, and for other purposes mentioned,' passed the 4th day of April 1799; Together with the several supplements thereto) with the Appurtenances. To have and to hold, the said tract of parcel of Land, with the Appurtenances unto the said Gideon Fitch and Nathaniel Fitch and their Heirs and Assigns forever as tenants in common free and clear of all restrictions and reservations as to Mines, Royalties, Quit-Rents or otherwise, excepting and reserving only the fifth part of all, Gold and Silver Ore for the use of the Commonwealth, to be delivered at the pit's mouth, clear of all charges. In witness whereof Andrew Ellicott Secry of Land Office of said Commonwealth hath hereto set his Hand and the State Seal hath-hereunto affixed the 21st day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight and of the Commonwealth the 33d. Attest -- James Trimble Deputy Secretary Comth. Inrolled the 21st December A.D. 1808.

There is no record in Luzerne County of the deed of Feb. 18, 1806 whereby John Fitch conveyed the above-mentioned tract of land to his sons, Gideon and Nathaniel Fitch.

Dates differ in the published histories of Luzerne County as to the year John Fitch settled in that county. "Portrait and Biographical Record of Wyoming and Lackawanna Cos., Pa." published 1897, p. 158, gives an account of John Fitch which gives his ancestry back to Rev. James Fitch which I very much doubt as being correct. This account states he came from Connecticut about 1779. The "History of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Cos., Pa.," Chapter on Falls Township, Wyoming Co., Pa., published 1880 p. 510, states that Matthew Sherwood settled in the autumn of 1789 from Danbury, Conn., and he bought 200 acres of land between the farms of John Fitch and David Morehouse who had settled there the year before.

The will of David Morehouse of Tunkhannock Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., dated April 17, 1820, probated June 23, 1820, states he is sick of body and gives to daughter Sarah Roberts "my Large Bible"; to wife Thankful "the use of all my estate during her natural life"; to daughter millie Williams $15 in neat stock; to two daughters, Betsy Taylor and Sarah Roberts, all the rest of my estate to be equally divided between them. Executor: Henry Roberts. (signed) David Morehouse. Witnesses: Thomas Hadley and Samuel Roberts. (Luzerne Co., Pa., Wills, Book A. p 242)

David Morehouse died June 3, 1820, aged 80 years, and his wife, Thankful, Feb 10, 1821, aged 77 years. Both are buried in the Roberts Cemetery in Falls Twp., Wyoming Co., Pa. Falls Township was a part of Tunkhannock Township until 1824. The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., has a copy of the gravestone inscriptions of this cemetery and others in the county and the above-mentioned inscriptions are noted therein. Pages 20-21

The Michael Shoemaker Book" by W.T. Blair, published 1924, has in its footnotes much data on the early families of the Wyoming, but there is no index of the names in these footnotes. An index has been made and inserted in the back of the copy in the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. The following has been noted therein regarding the Roberts Cemetery:

"The Roberts Cemetery near Falls, Wyoming Col, Pa. is on the Morehouse homestead and was deeded Aug. 3, 1822 by Henry Roberts to Abraham Holmes and Nathaniel Fitch in trust for the inhabitants residing near the piece of ground hereafter mentioned." The Henry Roberts deed conveyed 108 perches of land for "the use of the inhabitants to be used as a burial ground or place of internment and for nothing else except a meeting house". The land is described as a part of Lot 39 granted David Morehouse July 3, 1812. (The Michael Shoemaker Book, p. 454). Lot 39 is evidently a typographical error as the lot David Morehouse owned was No. 35 according to the Land Office, Department of Internal Affairs.

(Morehouse)

History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield", Conn., by .L. Jacobus, vol. 2, p. 683, gives the ancestry of the above mentioned David Morehouse and states that his children were baptized at Weston, Conn. as follows:

"Milly, bapt. Sept. 23, 1764: mar. Jan 20, 1783 Stephen Williams; Elizabeth Feb. 8, 1768 and Sarah March 18, 1770. Also that David Morehouse and his wife, Thankful, conveyed land in 1784 that she had received from her father, Solomon Couch. There is record in Weston, Conn. of her marriage to Stephen Williams so probably the family did not remove to Luzerne Co., Pa. until after that date.

Weston was incorporated in 1787 from Fairfield, Fairfield Co., Conn., thus the land David Morehouse and wife Thankful conveyed in 1784 would be recorded in Fairfield unless the deed was not recorded until after Weston was formed. The land records of Fairfield or Weston should give the place of residence when the conveyance was made and Weston records might give some clue of the Fitch family. The record of the survey of the land to David Morehouse states it was in Northmoreland township and he was a Connecticut Claimant. The resurvey was dated, Sept. 1802, and amounted to 264 acres, 142 perches (Surveys of Certified Townships, vol. 12, p. 78) and thepatent to said Lot No. 35 was dated July 3, 1812 (Patent Book H-7, p. 290, Land Office, Department of Internal Affairs).

May 18, 1814. David Morehouse of Northmoreland Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., farmer, deeds to David Morehouse Dillaven of the same place for $266.67 ~~++-tjat-tand-on-tje-saod-tpwnsjp-begonneng-at-tje-fence-pn-tje-bani-~~ all that land in the said township beginning at the fence on the bank of the river adjoining Phineas Sherwood thence up the river Susquehanna to a post thence north by land of the said David Morehouse 387 perches to a post thence east by land of Thadeus Taylor being lot 39 to 36 thence south by land of Phineas Sherwood to place of beginning containing 100 acres which said parcel of land is contained in lot 35 (in the single tier) which was surveyed to said David Morehouse in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly ****** which said tract was conveyed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the said David Morehouse by patent dated July 3, 1812.

signed ---- David Morehouse

Witnesses: Thomas Atkinson and William (X) Stage (His Mark) (luzerne Co., Pa., Deeds, Book 15, 205).

Although his wife Thankful did not sign the deed she was living as proved by his will made at a later date.

Gideon
Nathaniel #1 1781
Nathaniel #2 – 1806

1784 - married 1803 in Luzerne Co PA to Jeremiah Shaw
– married 1806 Ursul Smith

Betsey –
Sally

19 yrs.

Feb. 29, 1816. He sold the remainder of the tract for $600 to Henry Roberts of Northmoreland Township. Description in degrees and perches. No signature of his wife in this deed. Witnesses: Thaddeus Taylor, Henry Macy, and Samuel Roberts. (Ibid Book 17, p. 142).

The 1790 Census of Luzerne Co., Pa., is arranged alphabetically as to the namesof the persons listed, thus it is impossible to learn who were the neighbors of John Fitch. The 1800 Census show that Thaddeus, Noah, Rueben and Benjamin Taylor, David Morehouse, Matthew Sherwood were nearby neighbors of John Fitch. In the above mentioned Old Fairfield Families Mr. Jacobus has an unplaced John Fitch who married, Nov. 6, 1766, at Weston, Conn., Elizabeth Lockwood, daughter of John and Abigail (Morehouse) Lockwood. Abigal Morehouse was the daughter of Gideon and Mary (Gruman) Morehouse. The will of John Lockwood, as noted in Mr. Jacobus' report of his search, mentions the children of his daughter, Elizabeth, deceased, thus she died before Feb. 13, 1784, the date of his will. If this John Fitch is the one who moved to Falls Township, might he have married 2d Mary (Molly)_____ and they were the parents of Betsey, daughter of John and Molly Fitch who was baptized, May 20, 1784, as per the records of St. John Episcopal Church, Stamford, Conn.

The following marriage records have been noted in Luzerne Co., Pa.---

June 5, 1803. Jeremiah Shaw, Jr., Sheshequin, married Betsy Fitch.

March 23, 1806. Uriah Smith, Northmoreland, married Sally, daughter of John Fitch of Northmoreland.
(Records of Marriages and Deaths published in Wilkes-Barre Gazette, December 5, 1797 - Dec. 8, 1800 and Luzerne Co. Federalist, Jan. 12, 1801-Dec. 28, 1809, published in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Proceedings of Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, vol. 7, p. 211).

Query: Might the above-mentioned Betsey Fitch have been the daughter of John and Molly Fitch who was baptized May 20, 1784. The land records of Luzerne County show that John Fitch had a wife Mary and there was only one John Fitch in Luzerne County at that time.

The following land records in the name of Ephraim Lockwood give food for thought that there may have been relationship by marriage between John Fitch of Falls Township and the Lockwood family.

August 13, 1794. Joseph Ogden and Humphrey Ogden, Jr., of the Town of Pawling, Dutchess Co., N.Y. and Joseph Ogden of Western, Conn., yeoman, deed to Ephraim Lockwood of Western, Conn., yeoman, for 133L and 6s land in the Town of Northmoreland, Luzerne Co., Pa., and is lot 5 in said township beginning at the corner of lot 4 at a white oak tree marked on the bank of the Susquehanna river thence running westerly in company with lot 4 one and one-fourth miles thence running northerly 80 rods thence running easterly course to the Susquehanna river holding the breadth of 80 rods thence down said river to the place of beginning containing 200 acres.

signed --- Joseph Ogden
Humphrey Ogden, Junr.
Jumphrey Orden, Junr.

...o the record reads.) Witnesses: [illegible] and Rhoda Sturges. ...seph and Humphrey Ogden acknowledged the deed before Mathew Paterson, ...udge of the Court of Common Pleas, Dutchess Co., N.Y. Recorded May 15, 1794. (Luzerne Co., Pa. Deeds, Book 3, p. 47).

March 6, 1795. Ephraim Lockwood of Northmoreland, Luzerne Co., Pa., yeoman, for 300L deeds to Nathan Witlock of Lower Salem Westchester Co., N.Y., a parcel of land lying in said Northmoreland Township being Lot 5 in said ~~Northmoreland Township being Lot 5 in said beginning~~ township beginning at a small yellow oak tree on the bank of the Susquehanna river being the corner of said Lot 5 and Lot 4 in said township thence running west 16 degrees south being the Dividing line between said Lots to the northwest corner of said Lot 4 thence north 2 degrees east to the Susquehanna River thence down in company with said river to the first mentioned bounds including the ferry which I have occupied and containing 150 acres.

signed -- Ephraim Lockwood
No signature of a wife

Witnesses: John Phillips and Sally Willson. Recorded March 24, 1795. (Ibid, Book 3, p. 319(.

December 15, 1795. Nathan Whitlock of Northmoreland Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., yeoman, for $1565 deeds to paul Keeler of Ridgefield, Conn., yeoman, deeds the above mentioned 150 acres "including the ferry formerly ...ccupied by Ephriam Lockwood of which I purchased the aforesaid premises ...s by Deed on Record in Luzerne Co., Book 3, p. 319, may fully appear". Recorded December 15, 1795. (Ibid, Book 3, p. 560)

Although this tract of land is given as Lot 5, I infer it was the same land as per the attached tracing which was situated directly across the river from John Fitch. These deeds were given before the resurvey was made after 1800. The above-mentioned deeds given "Western" as the place of residence in Connecticut, but, undoubtedly, "Weston" is meant. Mr. Jacobus states in his letter of Aug. 3, 1846 that if Ephraim Lockwood went to Pennsylvania he returned as there was distribution, June 12, 1783, of dower in the estate of Ephraim Lockwood of Fairfield to his widow Ann. The land records of Luzerne County ... that the Ephriam Lockwood of Luzerne Co. was another man. -- Query: Might he have been a son of Ephrim and Ann(Whitlock) Lockwood. I found nothing further regarding him in Luzerne County so probably he moved elsewhere, possibly to Westchester Co., N.Y.,where Nathan Whitlock resided when he sold the land to the said Whitlock. From material at my disposal here in Washington; the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society and Luzerne County records I was unable to place this Ephraim Lockwood. The Lockwood Genealogy byF.Z. Holden and E.D. Lockwood, published 1889, gives several Ephraim Lockwood's, but no clues as to the Ephraim of Luzerne County. I believe further search in Weston and Fairfield, Conn., records might reveal a clue to his identity.

No record of death or estate of John Fitch andhis wife, Mary, have been found in Luzerne County. Probably all the land he owned he had deeded to his sons, Gideon and Nathaniel, before his death. He is listed in the 1810 census of Tunkhannock Township as over 45 years of age and also his wife as over 45 years. He is not listed in the 1820 census of Luzerne County although here is a John Fitch, a younger man, who was a son of Gideon Fitch, as proved by the land and probate records of that county.

The 1800 Census of LuzerneCounty shows that Reuben, Noah and Thaddeus Taylor were nearbe neighborsof John Fitch and the attached tracing shows the lands of Thaddeus Taylor adjoined John Fitch. The Michael Shoemaker Book, pp. 67 and 68, gives:

Rueben Taylor, an early Town Clerk of Providence Township, or District, in the town of Westmoreland, was born 1732, and died in Northmoreland Twp., Luzerne, now Wyoming Co., Pa., April 16, 1807, in his 76th year. (Note: He would have been born about 1731). His wife, Rebecca, formerly of Norwich, Conn., born about 1735, died in Northmoreland, now Falls Twp., Pa., ~~and had in~~ in Nov. 1829. In 1790 they resided in Luzerne Co., Pa., and had in the family living at home, Mr. Taylor, two males over 16, one under 16. They are buried in the Roberts Cemetery, Falls, Wyoming Co., Pa. Two of there children were:

Rueben, Jr.

Thaddeus, born March 1761;died June 27, 1830. His wife's name was Mabel _____. He is buried in Roberts Cemetery. Some of his children were: Wakeman married Elizabeth _____. Some member of this Taylor family married Elizabeth, daughter of David and Thankful (Counch) Morehouse; Lydia married Oct. 24, 1827, by Miles Avery, Esq., William Wright; Horatio, born 1812; died May 7, 1852;

VIII. John
X. Perry
. Sarah
XI. Nancy, born August. 23, 1823; died July 15, 1875; married (1) Elijah, son of Jabez and Permelia (Barnum) Jenkins; (2) Newman Miller
XII. Allen, born Feb. 1826, died Sept. 28, 1855.
XIII. Polly, born 1828; died 1902; married Lynford Siglin, born 1829; died in 1879.

"Nathaniel and Sarah (Keeler) Fitch and their children, Seymour, Spencer, Allen and Mary are buried on the homestead. Giles and Abigail are buried in the Roberts Cemetery nearby".

The following land conveyances have been noted in the name of Nathaniel Fitch in Luzerne Co., Pa.:

Jan 1, 1817. David Daley and wife, Betsey, deed for $750 to Nathaniel Fitch land beginning at a post being the northeast corner of Adam Willson's lot thence on said Willson's line (degrees and perches) to a post standing on the northeasterly line of the township of Northmoreland marked for ; corner thence on said line of Northmoreland (degrees and perches) to theplace of beginning containing 155 acres and 112 perches. Witnesses: Isaac Graham and Nelson Graham. Recorded August 4, 1818. (Luzerne Co., Pa. Deeds, Book 19, p. 158.)

ugust 8, 1825. Thomas Astley of theCity of Philadelphia, Pa., deeds o Nathaniel Fitch of Falls Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., for $258.25 land in said Falls Twp. beginning at a post and stone in the lineof the original survey thence along the line (degrees and perches) to the place of beginning containing 103 acres 50 perches being part of a tract surveyed to William Duncan. Witnesses: William Clark and Matthew Jackson. Recorded Nov. 19, 1825. (Ibid, Book 20, p. 507).

Dec. 15, 1837. Nathaniel Fitch of Falls Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa. deeds to Spencer Fitch of the same place for $4,000 land situated in said Falls Township bounded beginning at the ends of a certain stone wall on the line between Lots 36 and 37 thene by and with said line north 13 degrees west about 300 perches to a corner thence by lot 39 north 75 degrees east 138, 5 perches to a corner thence by the old Northmoreland Township line south 15 degrees east about 200 perches to the east end of said stone wall thence by the wall to the place of beginning containing about 200 acres excepting one acre which is reserved for use of a burying ground and also one-third part of all hay, grain, roots, and fruit which shall be raised on said farm during the natural life of the said Nathaniel Fitch.

signed --- Nathaniel Fitch
Spencer Fitch

Witnesses: Daniel Hardinga and Nancy Harding. Recorded July 16, 1838. (Ibid, Book 34, p. 121

August 23, 1839. Nathaniel Fitch of Falls Township, Luzerne County, Pa., to Semore Fitch for Allen Fitch of the same place for $5.00 land n Falls Township beginning at the northwest corner of Aaron Willson's and thence on said line (degrees and perches) to the place of beginning containing 155 acres 112 perches.

signed --- Nathaniel Fitch
No signature of wife.

Witnesses: Thomas Hadley and Sarah Fitch. Recorded Sept. 30, 1839. (Ibid, Book 35, p. 342.)

On the same day, August 23, 1839, Nathaniel Fitch of Falls Township agrees to release and convey all my rite titill interest and claim to a parcel of land in Falls Township unto Semor Fitch on the east branch of Buttermilk Falls creek with sawmill, House and Barn thereon the land known by the name of the Asley land the condition of the above release is such that the Semor Fitch is to let the said Nathaniel Fitch live on the said above described land during his natural life and also to have all the rents and profits arising therefrom.

signed --- Nathaniel Fitch
Semour Fitch

Witnesses: Thomas Hadley and Sarah Fitch. Recorded Oct. 7, 1839. (Ibid, Book 35, p. 359.)

thaniel Fitch died interstate. Letters of Administration were granted tober 7, 1839, to Spencer Fitch. Amount of the administrator's bond s $1000 with Elisha Armstrong as surety. Inventory taken Oct. 28, 1839, but there is no record of it in the Register of Wills in Luzerne County and none of the original papers are in the files. Many of the original papers are missing from the files in the Register of Wills of Luzerne Co.

The Republican Farmer and Democrat Journal, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., issue of October 16, 1839, give the following notice: All persons indebted to the estate of Nathaniel Fitch, late of Falls Township, to call and make immediate payment. Signed --- Seymour Fitch, Admr. Dated Falls, Oct. 9, 1839.

After the death of Nathaniel Fitch, his widow, Sarah, was living with her son, Seymour, as noted in the 1850 Census of Luzerne County, Pa., as follows:
November 5, 1850. Falls Twp., Wyoming County, Pa.
Dwelling No. 1786, Family No. 1889, p.228

Seymour Fitch,	54 years,	farmer, real estate $2000,	b. unknown
Betsey	" 50 years		" Pa.
Sarah	" 18 yrs.		" "
Harriet	" 15 years		" "
Marion	" 13 years		" "
Orlando	" 11 years		" "
Betsy	" 8 years		" "
Eliza	" 4 years		" "
ly	" 66 years		" "
y	" 23 years		" "

Sally
Molly

It is evident that the person who gave this family record to the census enumerator was not very genealogically-minded for Seymour Fitch was undoubtedly born in Pennsylvania and his mother, Sarah (Sally) Keeler in Connecticut. Similar errors are often found in the census records.

Referring to the one acre reservedfor the use of a burying ground in the deed given by Nathaniel Fitch to his son, Spencer Fitch, Dec. 15, 1837, the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society has a copy of the gravestone inscriptions in that burial ground as well as other cemeteries in Falls and Northmoreland Townships. The following Fitch burials are noted therein and a note regarding the condition of the grounds:

"Fitch Cemetery (private), Falls, Wyoming County, Pa. Located on top of the hill about one mile west of Falls, Wyoming county, Pa. In very bad condition, almost impossible to get around in it.

Alfred B. Fitch, born March 17, 1839; died April 24, 1891
Allen Fitch, born Feb. 28, 1826; died September 28, 1855 Nathaniel's brother
Elizabeth, wife of Seymour Fitch, died July 7, 1866, ae. 51 years, 5 mo.
Elizabeth, daughter of Morgan and Mary A. Fitch, died April 19, 1869, ae. 30 years, 11 mos., 17 days Nathaniel's brother

Elizabeth, wife of Spencer Fitch, born Feb. 2, 1817; died Nov. 26, 1893.
Nathaniel's brother

Lydia, daughter of Spencer and Elizabeth Fitch, died March 20, 1864; ae 23 years, 11 mos., 13 days.

Lydia Beemer, wife of Allen Fitch, born Oct. 2, 1826; died Jan. 17, 1919.
12th son of Nathaniel 1

Ophelia Fitch, 1855 - 1928

Sarah, wife of Nathaniel Fitch, died Feb. 6, 1856, age 70 years, 7 mos., 9 days. Have picture of his grave stone

Seymour Fitch, died July 19, 1855, age 52 years, 10 mos., 16 days Nathaniel's brother

Spencer Fitch, born July 21, 1811; died Oct., 4, 1895. Nathaniel's brother

The Roberts Cemetery, Falls Township, gives the following:

"Asher Fitch, born December 17, 1833; died Feb. 26, 1914. Giles son

Christine Sives, wife of Joseph H. Fitch, 1867-1927

Emily G. Fitch, born July 19, 1806; died August 5, 1873 Giles wife

Giles Fitch, born June 9, 1804; died Oct. 14, 1890. Nathaniel's brother

Joseph H. Fitch, 1860-1931

Rachel M., wife of Asher Fitch, born Aug. 26, 1839; died March 15, 1899.

Sarah J. Fitch, 1865-1920.

David Morehouse and wife, Thankful, are buried in this Roberts Cemetery as noted on page 11 of these notes.

The cemetery in Northmoreland Township across the river from Falls Township gives:

"Frank A. Fitch, 1836-1913.

Frank M. Fitch, son of William and Sarah D. Fitch, died Oct. 10, 1867, age 10 years, 9 mos. 7 days.

George J. Fitch, born 1847, died 1922

Gideon Fitch, died Feb. 17, 1843 age 72 years ? First Nathaniel's brother B-10/21/72

Hannah, wife of Gideon Fitch, died July 28, 1814, age 35 years 4 mos. 10 days.

Harry W. Fitch, born Sept. 19, 1879; died Feb. 16, 1921.

John Fitch, 1855-1934

Rose Swartwood, wife of John Fitch, 1862-1909.

Rosetta Heitsman, wife of G. J. Fitch, born 1846, died 1917.

William Fitch, born Aug. 31, 1818; died March 14, 1866.

William H. Fitch, born May 19, 1869; died May 8, 1894.

Note about this cemetery states that it is on the highroad between Northmoreland and Falls. The old part of the cemetery is on the top of the hill, the new part in front by side of the road; it is surrounded by a good fence and is in good condition.

Decendants of the Fitch family are still living in the vicinity of LuZerne County. Probably Miss Martha Fitch, daughter of Asher (4) (Giles 3, Nathaniel 2, John 1) who lives at 411 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, Pa. is the oldest. I called on her but she is not interested in genealogy. She told me that her uncle, Stephen Fitch, made search during his lifetime and the notes were with his niece, Mrs. Earl Dunlap who lived near Clarks Summit, a borough not far from Scranton. There was a local bus to Clarks Summit and from there I got a taxi to take me to her home which was about three miles from the borough. No, she did not have the data her uncle had made, but Mrs. Fred Diehl of Danville, Pa., had it. However, Mrs. Dunlap had a genealogical chart which she said was in the handwriting of her uncle, Stephen Fitch. It gave the lineage from Rev. James Fitch to John Fitch, born Jan. 11, 1756, as given in Stiles' "Ancient Windsor, Conn." This John Fitch was not carried further. He could ~~he~~ not have been the John Fitch who moved to the Wyoming Valley, Luzerne County, Pa., as there was only 15 years between his age and Gideon Fitch, son of John Fitch, of Northmoreland Twp., Luzerne County. Furthermore, my search in Luzerne County and Old Fairfield Families by D.L. Jacobus give every indication that John Fitch was from the Fairfield branch of the family though documentary has not yet been found.

1943

73
43
3C

From Portrait and Biographical record of Wyoming and Lackawanna Co., Pennsylvania

Giles Fitch, Sr., early learned the blacksmith trade and in partnership with his brother, Nathaniel, engaged in the manufacture of guns turning every part out by hand, making some very handsome ones, showing superior workmanship. Giles also became a shoemaker and a carpenter, always making his own shoes and built the house himself in which he lived the latter part of his life on his farm in Falls Township. He enjoyed best the hours spent in his shop and always took pride in keeping in repair the wagon which his grandfather, John Fitch, drove through the woods from Connecticut.

Rueben Taylor, born in Norwich(?) Fairfield Co., Conn. November 28, 1759

On the way home I passed through Danvill, pa., so stopped there only to learn that Mrs. Diehl had gone to Endicott, N.Y. for a visit. I wrote her but she only has data she has found herself and has no clues as to the ancestry of her ancestor, John Fitch. She doubts, the same as I, that he was a descendant of Rev. James Fitch as stated in "Portrait and Biographical Record of Wyoming and Lackawanna Cos., Pa.", page 158. I wonder where the Stephen Fitch notes are.

Since the Christian name of Seymour is roted ~~the~~ in the family of Nathaniel Fitch of Falls Township andthe name also appears in the Fairfield Co., Conn., branch of the family, the following is noted in "Decendants of Seymour Fitch and Elizabeth Hoyt of New Canaan, Conn. by E. Fitch, published 1939, pp. 7 and 19:

Lindall Fitch, son of Nathaniel 3 Fitch, John 2, Thomas 1, and Anna, became a member of the New Canaan church August 10, 1755. he died March 24, 1773, aged 56, of "a consumption and gravel". He married Mary Bartlett and their son, Seymour 5 of New Canaan, Conn., was baptized, June 27, 42. Seymour 5 Fitch married (1) Elizabeth, daughter of Ezra and Phoebe (Benedict) Hoyt. Among their children was Seymour 6 Fitch, born May 14, 1764, in New Canaan, Fairfield Co., Conn., then a Parish of Norwalk. He married, Jan 1, 1784, Dinah, daughter of Elijah and Mary (Raymong) Hoyt. In the spring of 1799 he removed with his wife and four children to Walton Delaware Co., N.Y.; died April 23, 1834, in Northfield (North Walton), Delaware Co., N.Y.

Mr. Jacobus shows on the genealogical chart he included with his report Bushnell Fitch as a son of John 3 Fitch, John 2, Thomas 1) and Lydia Bushnell. There is noted the name of Busnal Fitch, Nov. 4, 1794, on the list of members of the Episcopal Society in Canaan Parish. (An Historical Address delivered in St. Mark's Parish, New Canaan, Conn., May 13, 1934, by the Rt. Rev. Stephen E. Keeler, p.8).

My search in Luzerne Co., Pa., does not show the exact year John Fitch moved from Connecticut to the Wyoming Valley, Luzerne Co., Pa. If he came with David Morehouse, it could not have been until after 1783 and 1784, if he was the John Fitch whose daughter, Betsey, was baptized in Stanford, Conn., it was after 1786. The land records show he was a Connecticut claimant before the Trenton Decree of De. 30, 1782, but he may have been a non-resident. The 1790 Census of Luzerne Co., Pa. show that he and David Morehouse were residing there in that year.

Since the neighbors of John Fitch apparently came from Fairfield Co., Conn., I would suggest that a more exhaustive search be made in the records of Fairfield and Norwalk and also search be made in Weston and New Canaan, even though these two latter towns were not erected until 1787 and 1801 as land records may not have been recorded until the towns were formed. Also, is there any further mention of the names of the children of Elizabeth (Lockwood) Fitch who are mentioned as the "children of daughter Elizabeth deceased" in the will of John Lockwood, dated Feb 13, 1784.

The will of Paul Keeler of the District of Exeter, Luzerne Co., Pa., dated Nov. 12, 1812, proved Jan. 6, 1813, being week of body gives to wife Sarah the whole of my lands, buildings, stock, privileges and everything name and nature in any wasy so long as she liveth and to sell away any part of the whole according as she see cause and at her decease to be divided as follows in case that my wife does not sell the farm to be sold at her death and divided as follows: and everything sold at her death. As for my daughter Unana I do give $3 to be taken out of my estate and as far as my son Asa I do give to my son Asa, he is to have twice as much as William and Nancy and Lucy, Sally, Clarissa, Abbey, Fanny, Patty and my son William, this latter ones to be divided as for my daughters Polly and Fanny there to have a good bed and bedding each and $10 each to be taken out of said estate before dividing in household furniture. Executor: Wife, Sarah. Witnesses: Peter Harris and Levi Townsend.

signed --- Paul Keeler
Luzerne Co., Pa., Wills, Bood A, p. 141.

August 10, 1822. Harry Strope and wife, Fanny, formerly Fanny Keeler, of Wysox Twp., Bradford Co., Pa., deed their interest for $100 to Asa Keeler of their share as heirs of Paul Keeler. Both sign. Witnesses: Patience Albro by mart "X" and Polly Keeler. Acknowledged August 10, 1822, but not recorded until June 30, 1863 which was then in Wyoming Co., Pa. (Wyoming Co., Pa., Deeds Book 10, p. 15)

October 4, 1820. Zuriel Sherwood and wife, Lucy, formerly Lucy Keeler, of Bloom Twp., Morgan Co., Ohio, deed to Asa Keeler of Northmoreland Twp. Luzerne Co., Pa., for $100 all that property that shall fall to us as heirs unto the estate of Paul Keeler, deceased, of thecounty of Luzerne consisting of one tract of land lying in the district of Exeter, county aforesaid bounded north and east by lands of Levi Townsend on the south by Elisha Harris and on the west by Susquehanna river containing 150 acres. Both sign. Witnesses: Ira Jones and James Sickler. Acknowledged in Luzerne Co., Pa. Recorded June 26, 1863. (Ibid, Bood 10, p. 10)

September 26, 1828. Jacob Drake and wife, Nancy, formerly Nancy Keeler, of the township and county of Delaware Ohio, and Francis C. Johns of the township of Sunbury, county and state aforesaid deed for $100 to Asa Keeler of Northmoreland Twp., Luzerne County, Pa., all our right as heirs to the estate of Paul Keeler, deceased, late of the Township or District ofExeter, Luzerne Co., Pa., consisting of moveables and our shares of a tract of landof 140 acres bounded by the Susquehanna river on the west Consider Townsend on the north , unknown lands on the east, by lands of Elisha Harris and the north line of Exeter on the south **** and the said Francis C. Johns and particularly for the children of his former wife Abby Keeler, Viz., Nancy D., Abby Cowles and Nancy Cowles. Acknowledged Sept. 26, 1828 in Delaware Co., Ohio. Recorded June 26, 1863. (Ibid, Book 10, p.11)

Feb. 11, 1831. William Keeler and wife, Rebecca of Towanda, Bradford Co., Pa., for $75 deed their share to Asa Keeler it being all that tract and the one-tenth part of land surveyed to Sarah Keeler in trust for the heirs of Paul Keeler, deceased, of the District of Exeter containing 119 acres. Both sign. Witnessed: George Bowman and D.F. Barstow. Acknowledged in Bradford Co., Pa. Recorded June 29, 1863. (Ibid Book 10, p. 13)

Sept. 6, 1836. Phineas Sherwood, Nathaniel Fitch and Benjamin Townsend of Falls Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., and Urana, Sally, and Clarrissa, their wives, and Andrew Mantanye deed to Asa Keeler of Northmoreland Twp. for $265 all their right to a tract of land in Falls Township bounded on the north by lands of Consider Townsend, on the east by Elisha Harris and on the west by the Susquehanna River containing 119 acres. No signature of Phineas Sherwood and wife Urana in the record and Sally signed by mark "X". The orther signed. Witnesses: Daniel Harding and Sterne Keeler. Recorded June 29, 1863. (Ibid, Book 10, p.13)

Data on the Keeler family in the "Genealogy of John Rockwell and Ralph Keeler" by J. Boughton, published 1903, p. 29, footnote, and p. 72, state that Paul Keeler was born at Ridgefield, Conn., April 9, 1756, married Feb. 7, 1775, at Ridgefield, Conn., Sarah Burt Cornwall; moved in 1790 to the vicinity of the Great Bend of the Susquehanna; bought 150 acres, lot 5, in the certified township of Northmoreland, Luzerne County, Pa., which is situated opposite Falls Township, now Wyoming Co., Pa. He sold this after a short time after this and settled about two miles below Falls Village where he lived til his death, Nov. 16, 1812, and was buried in the family graveyard. His wife lived on the farm until the marriage of her daughter, Mary, to Andrew Montayne when she moved to Exeter Twp., Luzerne County, Pa., and lived with her daughter Mary until her death, April 17, 1826, and was buried by the side of her husband. The farm was purchased by the son Asa who gave it to his son, Sterne, and at the death of Sterne, his son, Hendrick B. Keeler purchased it and owned it in 1903.

From the foregoing land records and the above-mentioned Rockwell and Keeler Genealogy the children of Paul Keeler were:

I. Nancy, born Ridgefield, Conn., Sept. 10, 1775; married Jacob Drake

II. William, born Ridgefield, Conn., Sept. 20, 1778; married Rebecca _____.

III. Asa, born Ridgefield, Conn., Oct.1, 1780, married Betsey Newman

IV. Lucy, born Ridgefield, Conn., May 9, 1783; married Zuriel Sherwood

V. Sally, born Ridgefield, Conn., June 26, 1786. (Family Record) married August 29, 1801 in Falls Twp., Nathaniel Fitch (Family Record). She died Feb. 6, 1856 and is buried in the Fitch private burial grounds in Falls Township

VI. Urana, born Ridgefield, Conn., date not recorded, married Phineas Sherwood.

VII. Clara (Clarissa) born in Ridgefield, Conn., date not recorded; married Benjamin Townsend.

VIII. Abby, born Ridgefield, Conn.; date not recorded, married Francis Johns.

IX. Fanny, born Luzerne Co., Pa., born Dec. 14, 1796; died August 10, 1854; married Harry Strope; ~~born in Wysox~~ buried in Wysox Presbyterian Cemetery. (History of Presbyterian Church of Wysox, Bradford Co., Pa.) by V.C. Detty, published 1939, P.214.

X. Mary, born Luzerne Co., Pa.; married Andrew Montayne.

Washington., D.C.
November 20, 1946

FITCH

There is filed in the Manuscript Division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa., a folder which is captioned "Connecticut Claims. Those who have relinquished the Connecticut Title. Feb. 3. 1802. John Franklin Papers. Ferdinand J. Dreer Collection.

The paper contained therein reads: "Lancaster Feb. 3. 1802. To his Excellency Thomas McKean Gov. of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The report of the agent appointed for carrying into execution the Intrusion Law and the Supplement thereto is respectfully submitted.

"Agreeable to your Excellencys Instructions sever Journies have been made by the Agent and his Assistants into the Countys of Wyoming, Luzerne, and Wayne.

A number of persons who were generally supposed to have commenced their settlements under the pretended Connecticut title have relinquished all claim under Connecticut, or the Susqh or Delaware Companies or either of them, and expressed their desire to purchase from the lawful holders of the title derived from Penna."

"The following isthe form of the Relinquishmen t and the names of the persons who signed them."

"The persons for the abandonment - names of Persons who have Relinquished the Connecticut title".

Among the many names are: James Elsworth, MARY FITCH, Amos Taylor, David Taylor.

The paper is in one handwriting. The names of the persons are in the one handwriting.

FITCH

WANTED: The parentage of NATHANIEL FITCH, born Feb. 12, 1781, place not known, said to be son of JOHN: died Sept. 14, 1839 Falls Township, Wyoming Co., Pa.; married August 29, 1801, Sarah Keeler, born June 26, 1786, in Ridgefield, Conn., daughter of Paul and Sarah (Cornwall). She died Feb. 6, 1856 in Falls Township, Pa.

REPORT

There is no record of the birth of NATHANIEL FITCH Feb. 12, 1781 in the General Index of Connecticut Vital Records at the Connecticut State LIBRARY. This index covers all births, marriages and deaths in the various Town Clerks' offices throughout the State from the formation of the towns about 1850.

The following are the only entries under NATHANIEL FITCH that are anywhere near the date 1781:

> Nathaniel Fitch, son of Seymour, bap. March. 4, 1770
> New Canaan Church Rec. Vol. 1, p. 39
>
> Nathaniel Fitch, son of Nathaniel, baptized July 22, 1797 in Canaan, New Canaan Church, Rec. Vol. 1, p. 70.

These do not seem to apply but the name Seymour Fitch is significant inasmuch as NATHANIEL FITCH of Falls Township named a son Seymour.

As it was definitely known that NATHANIEL FITCH lived in Falls Township, Wyoming Co., Pa., it seemed best to study such records of that vicinity as were readily accessible to see if any clue could found as to the parents' names of NATHANIEL. A search of printed sources and Census records available in Washington, D.C. revealed the following:

Luzerne Co., Pa., was early under the jurisdiction of Connecticut and was called Westmoreland County. in 1780, 1781, 1782 JONATHAN FITCH represented the County in the Connecticut legislature which met at Hartford and New Haven. In 1776 JONATHAN FITCH was commissioned Sheriff of Westmoreland County, Conn. (Families of Wyoming Valley, Pa., by G.B. Kulp, pub. 1890, Vol. 3, p. 1041.

On April 4, 1842 Wyoming County, Pa., was erected from Luzerne County. Exeter Township, now in Wyoming County, Pa., was named for Exeter, R.I. Among the pioneers was PAUL KEELER, after whom the ferry was named. A postoffice established in 1812 at Keeler's Ferry had Asa Keeler as the postmaster until his death in 1867 in Keelersburg. (History of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties, Pa., pub. 1880, p. 510)

Falls Township was erected in 1824 from Tunkhannock. The second term of school was taught by FANNY KEELER. (Ibid, p. 511.)

A record of Marriages and Deaths noted in "Susquehanna Democrat" gives Abby Keeler married Spet. 25, 1814 to Francis G. Johns; PAUL KEELER of Exeter d. May 1813, Sarah Keeler executrix. 'Preceedings and Collections of Wyoming Historical and Geological Soc. (1909) Vol. 10, p. 179).

PAUL KEELER, JR, was born in Ridgefield, Conn., April 9, 1756; married Sarah Burt Cornwall. He bought the land and built a house where now stands the Methodist Church. He moved to Falls Twp., Pa., where died and was buried. He sold his property in Ridgefield to Nathan Dauchy. (Hist. of Ridgefield, Conn., by G.I. Rockwell, pub. 1927 footnote on p. 154).

The lineage of NATHANIEL FITCH, of Falls Township, as given in one source as follows:

Rev. James (1) Fitch 1622-1702; married Priscilla, dau. of Major John Mason of Pequot War fame. His son Major James (2) Fitch married Alice, Dau. of Major William Bradford and granddaughter of Gov. William Bradford. Major James Fitch, born 1649, died 1727. His son, the oldest was John (3) Fitch whose first son bore his name (~~Major James'~~ name probably) John Fitch (4) the second also named his oldest son John. It is not clear who John Fitch second was in this lineage.

John Fitch, 3rd., came from Connecticut with his family about 1779 - immediately after the Wyoming Massacre and settled on what is knownas Kingston Flats across the Susquehanna River from where is now the city of Wilkes-Barre and which is now the borough of Kingston. His oldest son NATHANIEL FITCH who married Sarah Keeler in Falls Township August 29, 1803. (Note the date 1803 - IM Root). Sarah Keeler was born June 26, 1785 in Ridgefield, Conn., daughter of Paul Keeler, Jr., born April 9, 1756 and Sarah Burt Cornwall who were married in Ridgefield, Conn., Feb. 7, 1775 Paul Keeler, Jr., was a trumpeter in the Revolutionary War in Sheldon's Light Horse from Connecticut. His father, Paul Keeler Sr., born 1720, was the son of Joseph Keeler, Born 1683, grandson of Samuel Keeler, born 1656, great grandson of Ralph Keeler. Ralph Keeler was born in England in 1613; came to Hartford, Conn., in 1640 and his will is on file at Fairfield, Conn., dated August 20, 1672.

NATHANIEL FITCH was the father of 12 children: (1) Giles, died 1890, age 86 (2)-Seymour (3)-Nathaniel (4)-Morgan (5)-John (6)-Perry (7)-Allen (8)- Abigail (9)- Sarah (10)- Nancy (11)-Polly (12) name not given in report submitted from Washington. (Spencer; born July 21, 1811 is the one omitted.) (Portraits and Biog. Record of Wyoming and Lackawanna Cos., Pa., pub. 1897, p. 158)

The 1790 Census of Luzerne Co., Pa., does not list the Keeler name; the 1790 Census from Ridgefield, Fairfield Co., Conn., p. 28 lists Paul Keeler and Nathan Dauchy next to him.

From a study of the Census Records, abstracted below, it seems likely that NATHANIEL FITCH was the son of JOHN FITCH as given in the lineage in the printed source cited above, but there are many John Fitches and the absolute identity of the father of Nathaniel is not certain.

1790 { Nathaniel - 9 yrs.
Gideon 19 yrs

The 1790 Census of Luzerne Co., Pa., lists JOHN FITCH with 1 male under 16 years, 2 males over 16 besides himself and 5 females. Sources vary as to the time John settled in Pa. Hist. of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Co., Pa. (1880) pp. 510-512 says he located with David Morehouse in Tunkhannock about 1788. Portrait & Biog. Rec. of Wyoming and Lackawanna Cos., Pa. (1897) states he came from Connecticut with his family about 1779. By 1790 he evidently had 7 children.

In 1800 Census, Exeter Township, p.371 he had 1 male between 16 and 26, besides himself 45 and up, and w females up to 10, 1 female 10 to 16, 2 females 16 to 26 and his wife 45 and up. In this same census, p. 372, Paul Keeler is listed with 1 male from 16 to 26 and himself 45 and up and 3 females up to 10, 3 females 10 to 16 and 1 female 45 and up. Gideon Fitch is listed in the 1800 Census, Exeter Township, p. 372 with 2 males under 10, 1 male 26 to 45, probably himself, 2 females under 10 and 1 female 16 to 26, probably his wife.

In the 1810 Census, p. 761, Tunkannock Township from which Falls Twp. was erected in 1824, John Fitch appears as 45 and up with 2 females 16 to 26 and 1 female 45 and up, probably his wife. In the 1810 Census of Exeter Township, p. 658, Gideon Fitch appears with 1 male under 10, 2 males 10 to 16, and himself 26 to 45, 3 females under 10, 2 females 10 to 16, and his wife 26 to 45. In the 1810 Census for Tunkhannock Township, Luzerne Co., Pa., p. 761 Nathaniel Fitch is listed with 4 males under 10 and himself and 1 female, probably his wife, 26 to 45.

John Fitch ~~is~~ listed above does not appear in the 1820 Census although there is a John Fitch in Northumberland Township, Luzerne Co., Pa., p. 401 1820 Census, age 26 to 45, with 2 males under 10, 1 female 10 to 16, 1 female, 26 to 45, and this may have been a son of John. (John T. Fitch says there was a younger son, John)

A letter to the Recorder of Probabt Files in Wilkesbarre, Pa., states the only estate for a John Fitch isthe one who died May 4, 1832 leaving a wife Lucinda and five daughters, Hannah, Lucy, Polly, Elizabeth and Clara.

In the 1820 Census for Northumberland Township, Luzerne Co., Pa., p 401 Gideon Fitch appears with 1 male under 10, 2 males 10 to 16, 1 male 16 to 18, 1 male 16 to 26, 1 male 26 to 45, 1 female under 10, 4 females 10 to 16 and 1 female 45 and up.

In the 1820 Census for Tunkhannock Township, Luzerne Co., Pa., p 444 Nathaniel Fitch appears with 3 males under 10, 4 males 10 to 16, 1 male 16 to 18, 1 male 16 to 26, 1 male 26 to 45, 1 female under 10, 4 females 10 to 16 and 1 female 45 and up.

In the 1830 Census for Falls Township, Luzerne Co., Pa., Vol. 49, p 87, there is Nathaniel Finch probably meant to be Fitch with 1 male under 5, 2 males 10 to 15, 1 male 15 to 20, 2 males 20 to 30, 1 male 40 to 50, 1 female under 5, 2 females 5 to 10, 1 female 10 to 15 and 1 female 40 to 50.

In the 1850 Census, Falls Township, Wyoming Co., Pa., 1786-1889, p. 228, Seymour Fitch, (son of Nathaniel) appears, age 54; farmer, place of birth unknown, with Betsey Fitch age 50, born in Pa., Sarah, age 18 , Harriet, age 15, Marion, age 13, Orlando, age 11, Betsey, age 8, Eliza, age 4, Sally Fitch, age 66, Polly, age 23, all born in Pennsylvania. It seems likely that Sally Fitch, age 66 years is the mother of Seymour Fitch and wife of Nathaniel and probably the statement "Born in Pa" was an error in the Census Record.

In the 1880 Census, Falls Township, Wyoming Co., Pa., the family of Asher Fitch and his wife Rachel is given and living with them was Giles Fitch, widower, age 75, father of Asher, and it is stated Giles was born in Pa., but his father and mother born in Connecticut. Giles Fitch was son of Nathaniel, so if this statement is true Nathaniel Fitch, born in 1781, son of John, was born in Connecticut, and John Fitch could not have been in Pa., in 1779 as noted in Portrait & Biog. Rec. of Wyoming and Lackawanna Cos., Pa.

Hist. and Geneal. of Families of Old Fairfield, Conn., Vol. 2, Part 3, p. 344 gives the following John Fitch married Nov. 6, 1766 Elizabeth Lockwood (Weston Church Records), but the lineage of this John is not given. A study of the ancestry of Elizabeth Lockwood (John, John, Joseph, Robert), shows she was daughter of John Lockwood and Abigale Morehouse and Abigail Morehouse was daughter of Gideon Morehouse. The John Fitch we seek went to Pa., with a Morehouse and the name Gideon appears in the ~~decenden~~ descendants of John. An effort was made to prove that John Fitch who married Elizabeth Lockwood went to ~~pace~~ Pennsylvania, but such proof was not found.

The Seymour Fitch appearing in New Canaan, see page 1 of this report, was Seymour Fitch, son of Lyndall, bap. June 27, 1742 - New Canaan Church Records, Vol. 1, p. 16; he married Elizabeth Hait, April 7, 1763 - Ibid Vol. 1, p. 45. Seymour Fitch son of Seymour bap. July 22, 1764 - Ibid Vol. 1, p. 33. Seymour Fitch married Patty St. John, both of Canaan, July 1, 1783 by Rev. Juston Nichols - New Canaan Church Rec. Vol. 1, p. 79.; Seymour Fitch died April 24, 1799 - New Canaan Church Records Vol. 1, p. 91.

Probate Files at the Connecticut State Library under John Fitch show the following:

John Fitch, Jr., Year 1748, File 2223, Town of Norwalk, District of Fairfield; will dated Jan. 26, 1747/8; probated April 5, 1748; mentions wife Elizabeth, eldest son Nathaniel, second son John, two daughters Elizabeth and Susanna, executors Samuel Fitch and Capt. Samuel Cluckston; Witnesses: Nathaniel Hayes, Garner ~~Olmstea~~ Olmsted and Elna Hanford. Inventory dated March 21, 1748; appraisers Asahel Raymond and Andrew Miles. Thomas[1] John[2] Nathaniel[3] John[4]

John Fitch II, Year 1760, File 2224, 3 documents, Town of Norwalk, District of Fairfield. / Will made August 25, 1748; exhibited Feb. 1, 1760; mentions loving wife without naming her, son Mattew Fitch, son Theophilus Fitch, son Bushnel Fitch, Daughter Rebeckah Richards, daughter Lydia Fitch; three sons to be executors. Thomas[1] John[2] John[3]

[2] John Fitch[3], rec. Windham, died Feb 19, 1760 at 54 yrs 11 months
Capt John[3] son of Capt. John[2] son of James[1] Born 1705

John Fitch, Jr. Yaar 1792 File 2225 , Town of Norwalk, District of Fairfield, 3 documents, Bond dated April 16, 1792 appointing Dan Finch Administrator with Joseph Lockwood surety

Inventory dated Sept. 7, 1792; appraisers Stephen Keeler

Account of Adms.,

Salisbury, Conn., Vital Records Vol. 1, p. 199, General Index at Conn. State Library gives ---

John Fitch, son of James and Abiael, born Nov. 18, 1745 and the Gen. Index gives JamesFitch married Abkel Metcalf Nov. 22, 1733 - Lebanon 1st Church Records Vol. 1, p. 168. Rev James 1, Nathaniel 2,

Proof is needed of the marriage of the above John Fitch. The marriage in 1766 to Elizabeth Lockwood, if it were the marriage of the above John, would make him 21 years old.

A study of records in Fairfield and Norwalk, Conn., was made for John Fitch and Nathaniel Fitch. Nothing was found to definitely connect with the Nathaniel of Pennsylvania. In the Norwalk deeds between 1750 and 1800 there were only two Johns - JOHN FITCH, son of Theophilus who sold out in 1794, and JOHN son of John and Elizabeth (Lockwood). By elimination there could have been no other John Fitch in the Norwalk Fitches between 1740 - 1750 unless son of Bushnell (4) Fitch and Lindel (4) Fitch. Ifthere was an extra John, he has no deeds recorded. Stamford deeds were not examined but it is doubtful if much could be found there as there were so few Fitch vital records in Stamford before 1800. An examination was made, however, of a copy of Stamford Church Records, made by S.P. Mead and on file at Conn. State Library and only entry under John Fitch was the baptism of Betsy Fitch, daughter of John and Molly Fitch of Norwalk on May 20, 1784 (St. John's Episcopal Church) Mead's abstract of Stamford Probate Records, Vol. covering years 1729 - 1802, showed in the will of Sarah Mead, late of Greenwich, widow of Capt. Jabez Mead, dated June 28, 1786 and probated May 3, 1787, the names Ebenezer Fitch and Giles Fitch sons of a deceased niece, Lydia Fitch.

From the Fairfield Probate Records in Fairfield, the following abstracts were made.

Vol. 21, p. 58 - John Lockwood, of Fairfield, will dated Feb. 13, 1784; probated Jan. 17, 1785; mentions wife Abigail; remainder to my children living and grandchildren of the deceased, viz., to the children of my son Jabez, of Fairfield, deceased, and to John Lockwood, Jr., and the children of Ephraim deceased, and Michael, Gideon and albert and Samuel, and the daughters Anne, Abigail, Mary, and the children of Elizabeth, deceased, and Susannah.

Vol. 24, p. 356 - Distribution June 12, 1783 of dower in estate of Ephraim Lockwood, of Fairfield, to his widow Ann Lockwood, one-third of house and lands.

In a further study to find if Elizabeth Lockwood who married JohnFitch could have any connection with the John Fitch who went to Pennsylvania, land records in Fairfield were studied and Vol. 19, p. 114, showed a deed dated Jan. 27, 1774 of Ephraim Lockwood, of Fairfield, to John Lockwood of Fairfield my father, land in Fairfield in Norfield Parish in Beachums and Lockwoods Long Lotts between SaugatuckRiver and the Third Cross Highway. (His land in Northfield, the present Weston which is north of the old Fairfield and Norwalk)

Of the Fitch Family the Fairfield Probate Records in Fairfield showed the following:

Vol. 9, p. 196 - Nathaniel Fitch of Norwalk, will dated April 5, 1742; proved June 20, 1743; mentions wife Anna, what she brought and 80; son John Fitch of Norwalk; son Lindel Fitch, of Norwalk land in Canaan Parish; daughter Elizabeth wife of Jabez Crane; other daughters, Abigail and Mary Fitch. Thomas [1], John [2], Nathaniel [3]

Vol. 12, p. 446 - John Fitch of Norwalk; will dated August 25, 1748; proved Feb. 26, 1747/8. Wife, Elizabeth. Eldest son Nathaniel; 2nd son John; two daughters Elizabeth and Susanna. Mr Samuel Fitch and Capt. Samuel Cluckston, executors. (See abstract of files at Conn. State Library, p. 4 of this report) Thomas [1], John [2], Nathaniel [3], John [4]

Vo.19 p. 460 - John Fitch, Jr., of Norwalk. Bond appointing Dan Finch administrator; Inventory; list of debts. (See abstract of files at Conn. State Library, p. 5 of this report)

Vol. 15, p. 339. December 16, 1766. Nathaniel Fitch, died, of Norwalk. Administration granted to John Fitch, Jr. of Norwalk. Thomas [1], John [2], Nathaniel [3], John Jr. [4], Nathaniel [5]

Vol. 23, p. 103. Distribution of estate of Nathaniel Fitch, of Norwalk made (pursuant to Court Order of March 21,1786) to John Fitch 10 acres 106 rods on Fitch's plain; 2 acres of swamp at south end of plain; 2 acres of woodland at north end of plain, and 4 acres 3 rods of swamp called Woolf Swamp; Elizabeth wife of David King 2/3 of Homestead, house and barn; each heir got ½ of the widow's thirds in the Homestead that she held in her son Nathaniel's Estate for life. (This proves that the distribution was of the estate of Nathaniel, son of John and Elizabeth; the distribution may have been delayed until after the death of his mother Elizabeth for Nathaniel seems to have died 1766. His brother John, administrator in 1766; must then have been of age, so born before 1745; and since he was called Jr. to distinquish him from John, son of Theophilus, who was born 1740, he must have been born between 1740 and 1745 or at a guess, 1742/3).

Nathaniel, John, + Elizabeth - no mention of Susanna, another sister were brothers + sister [6]

The NORWALK LAND RECORDS were studied andthe following abstracts made relating to Fitch family of the dates we seek:

Vol. 13, p. 21. Oct. 28, 1765. Elizabeth Fitch of Norwalk for £ 66 to my brother Nathaniel Fitch of same, 16 acres at Poplar Plain. died 1766

Vol. 13, p. 140. Jan 21, 1768. David King and wife Elizabeth of Fairfield to John Fitch, of Norwalk, 23 acres, excepting the one half of the one third part at the Death of Elizabeth Elis the wife of Henry Elis. (This seems to prove that the widow Elizabeth married again but there ware no deeds indexed under this name, which was plainly written.

Vol. 16, p. 72. Jan 21, 1768. John Fitch, of Norwalk, to my sister Elizabeth King wife of David King, 16 acres at Poplar Plain.

Vol. 16, p. 73. Jan. 21, 1768. John Fitch of Norwalk, for £ 20 to David King 3 acres at ~~Op~~ Poplar Plain.

Vol. 16, p. 73. Jan. 21, 1768. John Fitch of Norwalk to David King and Elizabeth his wife, 1 acre on south side of Wolf Swamp.

Vol. 16, p. 73. Jan 21, 1768. John Fitch of Norwalk to David King and Elizabeth his wife, 12 1/4 acres 2 rods 23 links at Wolf Swamp

Vol. 14, p. 409, April 20, 1781. Committee to Enquire into the Character and Conduct of a number of persons ... presented to us as Inimical & Dangerous to the Liberties and Independence of the United States of America ... Open & Secret Enemies ... Obadiah Wright, Nathan Burwell, Jr., Thomas Hanford, Nathan Jarvis, Thomas Fairweather, David Bolt, Peter White, Hezekiah Whitney ye 2d, Nathan Gregory, Phillip Scribner, Hezekiah Belden, John Belden, Edward Nash, Gershom Raymond, JAMES FILLIO, William Bolt, Ebenezer Church, David Lambert, Goold Hayt, Abraham Witney, John Sanders Jr., Garner Olmsted, Richard Patrick, NATHAN FITCH and JOHN FITCH, all of Norwalk. (Note that JAMES FILLIO is in this list.) Could be Cousins - Could be son of Theophilus

Vol. 16, p. 191. Jan. 24, 1787. John Fitch, of Norwalk, for £ 160 to James Fillio, of Norwalk, 19 acres at Popple Plain. (This appears to be the last deed on record of John Fitch, son of John and Elizabeth.)

Vol. 17. ~~1~~ p. 15. Sept. 1, 1790; Joseph Olmsted, Nathan Olmsted, James Fillio and wife Mary, and Elizabeth Elzea, all of Norwalk, for £ 145 to Samuel Olmsted of Norwalk, all right to 27 3/4 acres 27 rods, at Chestnut Hill, with ½ acre at west end of the Wood land. (This deed was consulted because Elizabeth Elzea was the nearest thing in the index to Elizabeth Elis. If she was the same, she was Elizabeth (probably Olmsted), widow of John Fitch and Henry Elis, sister-in-law of James Fillio, and mother of John Fitch who sold to James Fillio; both John Fitch and James Fillio are listed as Tories).

Norwalk Land Records continued:

Vol. 13, p. 78. Feb. 24, 1767. Theophilus Fitch, of Norwalk, for love to son John Fitch, land in Parish of Canaan at the upper Clabboard Hill with a Dwelling house ... by estimation 6 acres, he to have 1 acre on which the house stands in consideration of his being my oldest son.

Vol. 13, p. 213. Oct. 4, 1770. Jacob Stu John, of Norwalk, for £ 92-11s., N.Y. money, to John Fitch of Norwalk, 20½ acres at Silver mine. (This was the son of Theophilus Fitch.)

Vol. 16, p. 441. Feb. 25, 1789. John Fitch and Joseph Fitch of Norwalk, for 36s. N.Y. money, to Isaac Richards of Norwalk, sedge flats at Barren Marsh Creek in Norwalk West fields (Half of an undivided piece, the other half belonging to said Richards). (Probably son of Theophilus as that John had a brother Joseph).

Vo. 17, p. 378. March 24, 1794. John Fitch of Norwalk for £675, to Elias and Stephen Boutonof Norwalk and Nathan Bouton of Stamford, four pieces in Norwalk at upper Clabboard Hills, vizt., my Homestead land and all the Buildings standing thereon, 82 acres; another piece 2 acres, another 8 acres, another in Silvermine road 21 acres. Witnesses, Abijah Taylor, Eliphalet Lockwood.

Vol. 17, p.345. Oct. 20, 1794. Lydia Fitch quitclaims all right I have in lands of my son John Fitch and resigns all my right in land which he lately sold to Elias, Nathan and Stephen Bouton, which I hold as my thirds in my late Husband's estate. Signed by mark. Witnesses: Eseck Fitch, Thaddeus Betts (J.P.)

Vol. 9, p. 4 of index lists. Which John Fitch?
Ruth daughter of John Fitch, born March 29, 1768
Eseck son of John Fitch, born November 26, 1769.

1750
Eliz. + Samuel Platt ?

All deeds indexed under Elizabeth Fitch were studied and most of them related to Elizabeth wife of Samuel Fitch. All john Fitch grantor deeds were studied. Except for the early Nathaniel Fitch, the only Nathaniel Fitch deed is the sale by a Nathaniel of Norwalk, for $592, to Andrew Powers on Nov. 9, 1799, of 5 rods with his dwelling house in parish of Canaan at Clabboard Hills. It is chiefly of interest as showing that the name Nathaniel may be found in the Theophilus or the Lindal Branch which lived in New Canaan as well as the Nathaniel-John branch.

John Fitch, son of Theophilus, as indicated in the foregoing deeds, sold in 1794. The John Fitch we seek appears to have been in Pennsylvania by 1790 or earlier, so it is not likely John Fitch, son of Theophilus is our man.

John, son of Theophilus born 1740 ±5 yrs ±9 feet
Ruth 1768.
Eseck, 1769.

Thomas 1
Thomas 2
Thomas 3
Samuel 4
Samuel 5

If John Fitch, Jr., who died 1792 is the son of John who died 1748 and Elizabeth, such identity has not been found in the sources studied.

It will be noted that a John Fitch, son of James and Abiel, born Nov. 18, 1745 was found in Salisbury, Conn. His marriage has not been found and he would have been the right date for the John of Pennsylvania. Salisbury Probate Records are in Sharon, Conn., so a study of these would be necessary for the estate of James Fitch. Salisbury Land Records might reveal something, too. If it could be proven that John Fitch, born Nov. 18, 1745 went to Pennsylvania, the family tradition that Nathaniel came down through James Fitch would be substantiated. No such proof was found in the search made.

The John Fitch and his wife Molly whose daughter Betsy was baptized May 20, 1784 (St. John's Episcopal Church, Stamford, Conn., see page 5 of this report) has not been identified. Could Molly be a second wife of the John Fitch who married Elizabeth Lockwood?

It is possible that John Fitch who married Elizabeth Lockwood and who had Ruth born 1768 and Esek born 1769 may be the father of Nathaniel. The John of Pennsylvania had a son Nathaniel and a son Gideon, but who the other children were, seven of whom were born by 1790 as shown by the 1790 census, has not been found.

Perhaps the next step would be a study of records in Wilksbarre and Falls Township and then a study of records in Salisbury and Sharon, Conn.

CORRECTION

On re-reading the article on Falls Township in the "History of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Co., Pa." p. 510, I note it reads: "He (referring to Matthew Sherwood) having bought 200 acres between the farms of John Fitch and David Morehouse who had settled here the year before (the "year before" being 1788). I believe "who" only refers to David Morehouse and not to both of them as the certificate (see page 9 of these notes) states. John Fitch was an actual settler there before the Trenton Decree which was made Dec. 30, 1782, thus he must have settled there before that date. If this is true, then the Betsey Fitch, daughter of John and Molly Fitch, who was baptized in 1786 in Stamford, Conn., must have been another family than the John Fitch we are seeking.

The 1880 census records of Wyoming Co., Pa., of the family of Asher Fitch, son of Giles Fitch, and grandson of Nathaniel Fitch, state the father of Giles Fitch, was born in Connecticut. The Michael Shoemaker Book gives the date of birth of Nathaniel as Feb. 12, 1782 while the family record gives 1781. The family may have moved to Pennsylvania soon after the birth of Nathaniel.

Wanted: The parentage of Nathaniel Fitch, born Feb. 12, 1781, said to be the son of John, died September 14, 1839, Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, married August 29, 1801 to Sarah Keeler, born June 26, 1786 in Ridgefield. She died Feb. 6, 1856 in Falls Township, Pennsylvania.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

In tracing the various John Fitches we found in the Probate Files at the Connecticut State Library a John Fitch, Jr., year 1748, File 2223, Town of Norwalk, District of Fairfield (see pages 4 and 6 of previous report) and the will made January 26, 1747/8 and probated April 5, 1748 mentions wife Elizabeth, oldest son Nathaniel, second son John, and two daughters Elizabeth and Susanna.

In the study of Norwalk Land Records and on which a previous report has been made, it was found John (5) Fitch born about 1740- died _____, son of Theophilus (4), John (3), Thomas (1), John (2), sold his property in 1794 (see Norwalk Land Records Vol. 17, page 378 abstracted in previous report) and drops from the records. However, the John Fitch we seek was in Pennsylvania by 1790 or earlier according to the published records and census records so that would eliminate the above John, son of Theophilus, as a possibility.

A study of the Weston Land Records revealed the following items of interest in the Fitch search:

Vol. 1, page 205, March 22, 1786. John Fitch of Norwalk for £ 11 12s to Ebenezer Guyer of Fairfield, land "in the parish of Norfield in Hulls Long Lot so called ..... two acres and three quarters ~~11~~----- bounded ...Southerly on the Second Cross Highway ... Easterly on Land sett off to the Heirs of Elizabeth King ... Northerly on Aspretick River so called ... Westerly in part on the Widow Sarah Guyer in part and in part on Fanton Beers Land also southerly a small Gog (?) of two rods in Width on Fanton Beers Land in His Homestead. " Witnesses; David Coley, Samuel Ogden. Recorded 26, August 1789.

Vol. 1 page 204. March 22, 1786. David King of Newtown, Fairfield Co. Connecticut for 2£ 16s., to Ebenezer Guyer of Fairfield, land "in the Parish of Norfield in Hulls Long Lot so called containing one acre of Land Bounded ... southerly on the Second Cross Highway and to extend Northerly three rods in width up to Aspetick River bounded Northerly on said River .. Easterly on the Widow Guyers Land and Westerly on said Guyers Land that he lately purchased of John Fitch or Norwalk it being the Land that was set to my son Nathaniel Fitch King in the Distribution of the Widow Elizabeth Eale's Estate ~~of~~ Late of Fairfield Decd. Witnesses: David Coley, John Fitch. Recorded August 1789.

The above deeds were given before Weston became a town, but related to Norfield "Weston" land, were recorded three years later in Weston after it had become a town.

In 1794 Ebenezer ~~Gin~~ Guyer, of Weston, bought from Jonathan Benedict and Huldah his wife, of Danbury, one acre, but it was south of Saugatuck River, formerly called the "overplush land". He also bought in 1795 from Eleazer Newcomb and Anne his wife, of Geneva, Ontario County New York, salt meadow in Greens Farms Parish in Fairfield. This land was in Fairfield, the section between that town and Norwalk, which is now Westport, and at that time would have been recorded in Fairfield. Why it was recorded in Westport is not clear.

Other Fitch deeds in Weston were much later in date and none under the names of John or Nathaniel or any namesthat could have any bearing on this branch of the family.

The John Fitch who sold land in 1786 (see page 1 of this report) appears to be John Fitch (5), son of John (4), Nathaniel (3), John (2), Thomas (1).

Noting that John Fitch (5) sold to Ebenezer Guyer, the transfers under Guyer were studied and that search revealed the King deed. This is helpful because it mentions the mother of John Fitch (5) under her second married name Elizabeth Eale. She married as her second jusband Henry Elis, Or Eale. The name is Elizabeth Elis in Norwalk Land Records Vol. 13, page 140, deed dated January 21, 1768 (see page 7 of previous report). It is evident she left an estate as reference is made to a distribution, but there is no Probate File at the State Library for an Elizabeth Eale, Eales, EElls, or Elis. If such could be found there might be mention of Fitch grandchildren. Norwalk Probate District was constituted May session 1802 from Fairfield and Stamford, and it is possible the probate record volumes in Fairfield and Stamford would show something. At the State Library only such files as have been salvaged are available, but many documents, now lost, have been recorded in the record volumes at the Probate Record offices. At the Connecticut State Library there is a manuscript known as Mead's Abstracts of Stamford and Fairfiled Probate Records and this was studied but showed nothing for Elizabeth Eales or Elis.

The names Nathaniel and Seymour appear in the family of John Fitch of Luzerne County Pennsylvania and those names appear in the ancestry of John Fitch (5), John (4), Nathaniel(3), John (2), Thomas (1)., he having a brother Nathaniel, a grandfather Nathaniel and acousin Seymour. We know John Fitch married 1766 Elizabeth Lockwood and she was dead when her father'ws estate was probated in 1784. We have found a John Fitch and wife Molly having a daughter Betsy baptized May 30, 1784 (St. John's Episcopal Church Stamford) and this John was then called of "Norwalk". It is possible John Fitch, who married Elizabeth Lockwood married for his second wife a Molly or Mary. We know John and Elizabeth (Lockwood) Fitch had Ruth born 1788 and Esek born 1769 and probably others, and we know John Fitch of Pennsylvania had a son living at home. A search of Pennsylvania land records revealed John Fitch of Luzerne County, Pa., had a wife Mary (see Luzerne County Land Reoords page 13 of Mrs. "atts report), and there was only one John Fitch in Luzerne County (see abstract of deed dated August 29, 1803 page 6 of Mrs. Watts' report) and he must been the father of Nathaniel. Proof that John Fitch who married Elizabeth Lockwood is the John Fitch appearing in Pennsylvania has not been found but circumstantial evidence indicates that he was. If this is so, the tentative set-up for the ancestry of Nathaniel may be follows and would serve as a hypothesis to prove or disprove:

Thomas Fitch (1) married Anna Stacey
(1612 - 1704)

Sergt. Thomas (2) married Ruth Clark
(____ died 1681)

John (2) married Rebecca Lindel
1674 (Born 1653 --

John (3) married Lydia Bushnell
(1677-1760)

Nathaniel (3) died 1743
Married (1) _____
Married (2) by 1729 Sarah Seeley Frost
Married (3) Anna Mallory

Matthew (4) Theophilus (4)
Bushnell (4) Rebecca (4) Lydia (4)

John (4) married Elizabeth (Olmsted?)
1707-1748 she married (2)
(called Jr. because Henry Elis or Eales
uncle was living in
1748)

Lindel(4)
Seymour (5)
Seymour (6)

Nathaniel (5)
1735-1766

Elizabeth (5)
married David King

John (5)
1742/3

Susanna (5)

perhaps married 1766
Elizabeth Lockwood (1)
and (2) Molly

Ruth (6) born 1768
Esek (6) born 1769
perhaps Nathaniel (6) born 1781 of
Falls Twp., Pa.
Gideon (6) -1771
Betsy (6)
baptised 1784

Thomas
John
Nathaniel
John
John
Nathaniel

Falls Township, Luzerne Co., Penn.

Mathew Sherwood located two miles up the river from Buttermilk Falls in 1789 between the farms of John Fitch and DavidMorehouse who had settled a year before.

Falls Township School was taught by Fanny Keeler, whose vigorous discipline made a heavy graft on the sprouts growing in the neighboring woods. Probably between 1800 and 1825.

Reuben Taylor lived on the McKeen Flats. Mathew Sherwood, John Fitch, and DavidMorehouse on the flat below. Paul Keeler and Zephaniel Townsend on the Townsend Flat.

From the 1798 Tax records of Pennsylvania -----

Pelatiah Fitch owned property in Bedford, Salem, Hanover Barn 30 X50 and a grist mill and many acres of land.

Gideon Fitch owned a 10 X 20 dwelling and a stable 14 X 12 on 300 acres in Exetor.

John Fitch owned an 18 X 10 house and 2 large barns on 300 acres bounded by the Sherwood property and the Susquehanna River.

From the 1790 census John Fitch had 3 boys over 16, 1 boy under 16, and 5 girls.

Mary Fitch, John's sister, Thomas[1], John[2], married a Mathew Sherwood several generations earlier.

Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., Penn.

Mathew Sherwood located two miles up the river from Buttermilk Falls in 1789 between the farms of John Pilch and Nathaniel Hoopes- houses who had settled a year before.

Paxton Township School was taught by Penny Keeler, whose vigorous discipline made a heavy graft on the sprouts growing in the neighboring woods. Probably between 1800 and 1825.

Reuben Taylor lived on the Nelson Plats. Mathew Sherwood, John Pilch, and David Moorehouse on the flat below. Paul Keefer and Zephaniel Townsend on the Townsend Flat.

From the 1798 Tax records of Pennsylvania ------

Nathan Pilch owned property in Bedford, Salem, Hanover- Penn 30 X 50 and a grist mill and many acres of land.

Gideon Pilch owned a 10 X 20 dwelling and a stable 14 x 12 on 300 acres in Exeter.

John Pilch owned an 18 X 10 house and 2 large barns on 300 acres bounded by the Sherwood property and the Susquehanna River.

From the 1790 census John Pilch had 3 boys over 16, 1 boy under 16, and 5 girls.